

African Violet

MAGAZINE

Qk1
.A3149

July • August 2004

Volume 57

Number 4



AVSA Information

FOR CONDUCTING BUSINESS WITHIN YOUR SOCIETY

FOR ACCURATE SERVICE, SEND YOUR INQUIRIES TO THE CORRECT PERSON. ALWAYS INCLUDE YOUR NAME AND ADDRESS.

MEMBERSHIP DUES INCREASE EFFECTIVE OCT. 1, 2002:

Send check payable to AVSA for new or renewable membership to AVSA Office, 2375 North Street, Beaumont, TX 77702; phone 409-839-4725 or 1-800-770-2872. Individual \$25.00, USA only; Individual, all other countries - \$27.50; Commercial USA \$37.00; Commercial International - \$38.75; Life (USA) - \$300.00. International Life \$375.00. Remit in U.S. Dollars with draft or check on a USA Bank. See Membership Application. Master Card/Visa accepted.

AFFILIATES: Chapter - \$27.00; Council, State or Region - \$27.00.

MEMBERSHIP AND PROMOTION: Send ideas, offers to help, requests for assistance to Carolee Carter, 10947 SW 71st Circle, Ocala, FL 33476. *E-mail* carolee37@earthlink.net

AFFILIATES: For information on Affiliates or how to organize a chapter, write Bev Promersberger, 7992 Otis Way, Pensacola, FL 32506. *E-mail* promers22@hotmail.com

AVSA OFFICE: Jenny Daugeau, Administrative Coordinator, 2375 North Street, Beaumont, TX 77702, 1-800-770-AVSA; 409-839-4725; FAX 409-839-4329. Hours: Monday - Friday, 9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. CST. *E-mail* avsa@earthlink.net

AVSA SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATION: Dr. Elmer Godeny, 7004 Government St., Baton Rouge, LA 70806.

BEST VARIETIES: HONOR ROLL COMPILER Floyd Lawson, 20719 Madrona Ave., Torrance, CA 90503.

BOOSTER FUND: Send contributions to Shirley Berger, 4343 Schumacher Rd. - 196E, Sebring, FL 33872-2639.

BOYCE EDENS RESEARCH FUND: Send contributions to Marlene Buck, 17235 N. 106th Ave., Sun City, AZ 85373-1958.

BUILDING MAINTENANCE FUND: Send contributions to Mary Walbrick, 5235 Kingston Dr., Wichita Falls, TX 76310-3029.

COMMERCIAL ACTIVITIES: Kent Stork, 2501 E. 23rd Ave. S., Fremont, NE 68025.

COMMERCIAL SALES & EXHIBITS: For information on convention entries or sales room, contact Pat Richards, 15105 S. Seminole Dr., Olathe, KS 66062-3004.

CONVENTION AWARDS: Jan. issue. Send suggestions or contributions for convention awards to Sue Hoffmann, 2809 Forest Hills Ct., Virginia Beach, VA 23454-1236.

CONVENTION PROGRAM: Send special requests for workshop programs or interesting speakers to Linda Owens, Convention Director, 1762 Stemwood Drive, Columbus, OH 43228. If interested in sponsoring a national convention in your area, contact Convention Director.

FUTURE CONVENTION DATES: Cincinnati, OH - April 17-24, 2005.

CULTURE FOLDERS: (postpaid): 100 to 400 - \$10.50 per 100; 500 to 900 - \$9.25 per 100; 1000 and over - \$7.00 per 100.

SHORT VERSION OF CULTURE FOLDER: (postpaid): 500 to 1,000 \$23.00 per 500; 1,500 and up \$21.00 per 500.

JUDGE'S DUPLICATE CARD: Send self-addressed stamped envelope to Bill Foster, 3610 Gray Dr., Mesquite, TX 75150.

JUDGING SCHOOL: To register a judging school, send request to Elinor Skelton, 3910 Larchwood Rd., Falls Church, VA 22041. A registration fee of \$15 is required.

LIBRARY: Order AVSA slide programs and packets from AVSA Office, 2375 North Street, Beaumont, TX 77702. List in September issue. If you have ideas for a library program or slides to donate, write Ann Nicholas, 3115 Deerfield Dr., Denton, TX 76208-3428. Requests must be in writing. List top 3 choices.

MAGAZINE: Copyrighted 2004, The African Violet Society of America, Inc., all rights reserved. Reproduction, in whole or in part, in any form or by any means, electronic or mechanical, without written permission is prohibited. All articles are property of AVSA and must not be reprinted without Editor's permission.

AVM EDITOR: Ruth Rumsey, 2375 North Street, Beaumont, TX 77702; 409-839-4725; 1-800-770-2872; FAX 409-839-4329. *E-mail* rumsey@earthlink.net

ARTICLES BY MEMBERS, COLUMNISTS AND MEMORIALS: Send to Editor.

Please Note: Deadlines - Articles and Columnists: Jan. issue - Oct. 1; Mar. issue - Dec. 1; May issue - Feb. 1; July issue - Apr 1; Sept. issue - June 1; Nov. issue - Aug. 1.

COMING EVENTS: Send to Editor.

Coming Events Deadlines: - Jan. issue - Nov. 1; Mar. issue - Jan. 1; May issue - Mar. 1; July issue - May 1; Sept. issue - July 1; Nov. issue - Sept. 1.

ADVERTISING MANAGER: Advertising rates and information: Judith Carter, 1825 W. Lincoln St., Broken Arrow, OK 74012. *E-mail* avmads@valornet.com

ADVERTISING DEADLINES: Jan./Feb. issue - Nov. 1; Mar./Apr. issue - Jan. 1; May/June issue - Mar. 1; July/Aug. issue - May 1; Sept./Oct. issue - July 1; Nov./Dec. issue - Sept. 1.

"AND THE WINNERS ARE...": Send show results to Mary Corondan, 7205 Dillon Ct., Plano, TX 75024.

BACK ISSUES: Complete your set now. Request price list of available issues from Beaumont office. Send SASE for list.

CHANGE OF ADDRESS: Send new address at least 30 days before it is to take effect, along with old address, to AVSA office in Beaumont.

QUESTION BOX: Ralph Robinson, P. O. Box 9, Naples, NY 14512. *E-mail* robsviolet@aol.com and Sue Haffner, 3015 Timmy Ave, Clovis, CA 93612-4849. *E-mail* sueh@csufresno.edu

MASTER VARIETY LIST:

MVL SUPPLEMENTS: will be published in the AVM. Send any correction and/or description of new cultivars with hybridizer's name to Joe Bruns, 1220 Stratford Lane, Hanover Park, IL 60130.

MEMBERSHIP CARDS: Sent to Associate Members and New Members only. Renewing members receive card on white protective cover of AVM.

OFFICIAL CORRESPONDENCE: AVSA Secretary, Nancy Hayes, 9 Cobblestone Rd., Bloomfield, CT 06002-3003.

PLANT REGISTRATION: Janice Bruns, 1220 Stratford Ln., Hanover Park, IL 60203-2667. *E-mail* janice@qwp.net

RESEARCH: Send suggested projects for scientific research or names of interested, qualified potential research personnel to Dr. Jeff Smith, 3014 W. Amherst Rd., Muncie, IN 47304.

SHOW ENTRY TAGS: 100 - \$8.00 postpaid. Order from AVSA Office.

SHOW SCHEDULE APPROVER: For information on Shows, AVSA Awards and Approving Schedules write to: Patricia Sutton, 1707 S. 77 E Ave., Tulsa, OK 74112. *E-mail* sutpa01@worldnet.att.net. **Do not send Show Schedules by E-mail - this address is for information ONLY.**

QUESTIONS ON HYBRIDIZING: Dr. Jeff Smith, "In Search of New Violets" The Indiana Academy, Ball State University, Muncie, IN 47306. Web site: avsa.org

Prepay your dues for up to 3 years and receive Membership Discount:

\$25 Individual (USA) 1 Year
\$49 - 2 Years \$73 - 3 Years

\$27.50 Individual (International) 1 Year
\$53.00 - 2 Years \$79.50 - 3 Years

The African Violet Magazine (ISSN 0002-0265) is published bi-monthly: January, March, May, July, September, November. Periodical postage is paid by The African Violet Society of America, Inc., a non-profit organization, at 2375 North Street, Beaumont, TX 77702 and at additional mailing offices. Subscription \$25.00 per year which is included in membership dues. • Copyright 2004 The African Violet Society of America, Inc. POSTMASTER: Please send change of address form 3579 to African Violet Magazine, 2375 North Street, Beaumont, TX 77702

African Violet

MAGAZINE

July • August MISSOURI BOTANICAL

Volume 57

Number 4

JUN 7 8 2004

GARDEN LIBRARY CONTENTS

FEATURES

Attention: All Members of AVSA	5	Just Coincidence? - Diane Miller	44
Putting Tubers and Rhizomes to Bed - Marge Huntley	7	Planting by Moon Signs	45
Overcrowding - Cheryl Salatino	9	2004 Best AVM Article Awards - Barbara Pershing	47
AVSA 2004 Special Society Awards	10	Attention: All Members of AVSA	47
What's Bugging You? - Lisa Reynolds	14	<i>Episcia</i> Propagation - Nancy Robitaille	47
Moisture Control Soil - Lola Rossi	15	Soil Mealy Bug - Nancy Robitaille	48
Violets are Red, Blue, or Whatever - Steve Covolo	19	Nancy Robitaille? The Face Behind the Name!	50
Unusual Containers - Linda Golubski	19	Show Schedule Hints - Barbara Goodsell	51
Transplant Seedlings Often and		Worth Repeating...Plant Nutrition - David Buttram	52
Remove Cotyledons - Dale Martens	23	Causes and Solutions: Tight and Brittle Centers	55
Best Variety List - Floyd Lawson	24	Selecting a Good Plant From a Description - Sue Gardner	56
Basic Essentials - Susan Gimblet	38	Bi-color Violets and Sporting - Joyce Stork	56
Culture of Miniature African Violets - Margaret Taylor	39	Addition to the 2004 Vacation Guide	56
Mather No. 10 - <i>Saintpaulia brevipedosa</i> - Dr. Jeff Smith	40	Let the Pot Tell the Story - Marge Huntley	57
A Familiar Story - Tom DeRousse	42	Propagation Techniques - Carol Hess	58
Suggestions for Growing Large - Lisa DiMambro	42		

DEPARTMENTS

Index of Advertisers	2	Showcase	28
Officers and Staff	2	"And the winners are..." - Mary J. Corondan	30
President's Message - Janet Riemer	3	Showcase	32
Editor's Notes - Ruth Rumsey	4	Question Box - Sue Haffner	34
Office Update - Jenny Daugereau	5	Showcase	36
For Beginners - Sharon Holtzman	6	AVSA Building Maintenance Fund - Mary Walbrick	43
In Search of New Violets - Dr. Jeff Smith	8	Boyce Edens Research Fund - Marlene J. Buck	43
Thinking Small - Pat Richards	12	In Memory	44
Shows and Judges - Bill Foster	17	Vintage Violets - Barbara Elkin	46
A Family Portrait - Georgene Albrecht	18	Coming Events	57
Registration Report - Janice Bruns	20		
Affiliate Update - Bev Promersberger	21		
AVSA Honor Roll of African Violets - Floyd Lawson	22		
AVSA Booster Fund - Shirley Berger	24		

CONVENTION

2004 National Show Winners	16
Thank You From Tucson - Kathy Bell	21
Convention Show Awards - Sue Hoffmann	22
A Fiesta of Violets	26

COVER

Persian Prince

Best In Show

Best Miniature

Best Girl Foliage

2004 AVSA National Show

Exhibited by: **Susan Hapner**

Hybridized by: **S. Sorano**



Photo Credit: Winston J. Goretsky

INDEX OF ADVERTISERS

African Rainforest Conservancy	61
African Violet and Gesneriad News	62
AGGS	63
American Orchid Society	59
Annie's Violet Supplies	64
AVS of Canada	62
Bayou Violets	60
Belisle's Violet House	62
Beverly's Violets & Gifts	61
Bloomin' Jungle	64
Bluebird Greenhouses	60
Cape Cod Violetry	Inside Back Cover
Cryptanthus Society	60
Donnie's Violets	60
Fundcraft	59
Garden Angel	59
Growing to Show	62
Hobby Greenhouse	60
Indoor Gardening Supplies	60
JoS Violets	64
Lyndon Lyon Greenhouses	62
Neptune's Harvest	60
Optimara/Selective Gardener	25
Out Of Africa	60
Pat's Patch	59
Pat's Pets	63
Physan 20	63
Prairie Violets	60
Rob's Violets	Back Cover
Shirley's House of Violets	61
Smith's Country Cottage	64
Sonja's Violets	60
Travis' Violets	63
VioletsFun Photo Journal	61
Violet Gallery	63
Violet Perfection	63
Violet Showcase	64



OFFICERS

Janet Riemer, President
256 Pennington-Harbourton Rd.
Pennington, NJ 08534-4007
email: J_Riemer@comcast.net

Linda Owens, 1st VP
1762 Stemwood Dr., Columbus, OH 43228
email: Ldowens215@aol.com

Joyce Stork, 2nd VP
2501 E. 23rd Ave. S, Fremont, NE 68025
email: kents@tvsonline.net

Ron Davidson, 3rd VP
941 F. M. 2377, Red Oak, TX 75154
email: chiefrobd@aol.com

Nancy Hayes, Secretary
9 Cobblestone Rd., Bloomfield, CT 06002
email: john.hayes@snet.net

Gary Gordon, Treasurer
5202 Links Lane, Leesberg, FL 34748
email: ggordon120@aol.com

John E. (Jack) Wilson, Immediate Past President
114 Pine Valley Court, DeBary, FL 32713-2300
email: cagmo@comcast.net

STAFF

Ruth Rumsey, Editor
2375 North Street, Beaumont, TX 77702
email: rumsey@earthlink.net

Judith Carter, Advertising Manager
1825 W. Lincoln St., Broken Arrow, OK 74012
email: avmads@valornet.com

Barbara Pershing, Publications
8134 Buck Ridge, Cedar Falls, IA 50613
email: barbara.pershing@uni.edu

Floyd Lawson, Best Varieties, Honor Roll
20719 Madrona Ave., Torrance, CA 90503
email: floydll@earthlink.net

Heather Menzel, Tally Time
135 N. Main St., Yardley, PA 19067
email: hmenzel@erols.com

Every attempt is made to keep articles technically correct. Since the growing of fine African violets can be achieved in many ways, the methods and opinions expressed by writers are their own and do not necessarily reflect the opinion of AVSA.

President's Message



Dear AVSA Members,

I couldn't tell you about convention in my last letter, but I can rave about it now. AVSA's 58th annual convention was held from April 11 to April 18, 2004 in Tucson, Arizona. It was sponsored by the Tucson African Violet Society, the Desert Sun African Violet Society (in the Phoenix area), and the Albuquerque African Violet Club (in New Mexico). The three groups are geographically separated by many miles, but they pulled together to host a wonderful time for us all. The weather couldn't have been better, the tours were fascinating, the hotel was marvelous with outstanding food and service, and the show was beautiful. Read about the winners and all the details elsewhere in this issue.



Most of you know from earlier President's letters and many articles in the *African Violet Magazine*, that AVSA has been working hard for quite a few years to increase the Society's membership, without much success. These days with many mothers working outside the home, there just isn't much time for hobbies, growing African violets included. Ruth Rumsey, the *AVM* editor, contacted representatives of many organizations similar to ours and found that we're "all in the same boat." It was suggested to me by a long-time friend that perhaps AVSA ought to try to be better, rather than bigger. The more I thought about that idea, the better I liked it, so I took it to convention. The Executive Committee and the Board of Directors agreed and decided to shift the Society's focus. To begin, plans are underway to make some changes to the *AVM* so that more of the content is on African violets and their culture. Lists, including affiliates, judges, and commercials, that appeared in a supplement in each September issue will be available from the office. The same will be done with the supplement to the African Violet Master List of Species and Cultivars (AVML) that has been in the November issue. Details of the procedure for obtaining hard copy of these lists have still to be worked out. Notices will be in the magazine to inform you. It is hoped that this will improve the readability of the *AVM*, thereby enticing new members to stay with us. It will also save a considerable expense, reducing the cost of those issues, and hopefully enabling the Board of Directors to delay an increase in membership dues. If you have suggestions on other ways the Society can become better, rather than bigger, please contact one of the officers or the office staff.

Speaking of changes in the *African Violet Magazine*, Sue Haffner, who will be alternating with Ralph Robinson as columnist for the Question Box, has her first column in this issue. Welcome, Sue. Many thanks to Dorothy Kosowsky for all her efforts in answering your questions over the years. The dedication and hard work of all our columnists is greatly appreciated.

Wonderful news came to the Society recently. A letter was received from a trust company in Manhattan, Kansas, informing the Society that we had been named in a trust agreement by George and Martha Vonderheid. George died in December and Martha had apparently predeceased him. Their estate is to be distributed according to the trust agreement, and AVSA will receive 5% of the total after all bills have been paid. It was so thoughtful of them to bequeath a portion of their estate to benefit AVSA. It is hoped that more of our members will consider such a bequest.

The heat of the summer is upon most of us. I hope you are able to provide a suitable environment for your violets so they will continue to provide you with joy and beauty.

Janet Riemer
President, AVSA

Editor's Notes



Ruth Rumsey
AVM Editor
2375 North Street
Beaumont, TX 77702
email: rrumsey@earthlink.net

I'm sure you've all heard how much everyone enjoyed the convention in Tucson. This was my 10th convention, and I have to say it was the best ever! The three clubs, **Tucson AVS**, **Desert Sun AVS**, and the **Albuquerque AVC** hosting AVSA's 58th annual convention did a wonderful job. **Kathy Bell**, local Convention Chair and **Thelma Heinrich**, Show Chair, are to be commended. The Doubletree Hotel was a perfect place for this convention. Not only was it a beautiful structure with interesting gardens and a fruit orchard, but also the staff was friendly and often went out of their way to assist us.

A special treat for me during the convention was seeing my dear friend, **Agatha Garrison**, New Mexico, receive the **Hudson Memorial Award for Affiliate Leadership**. Agatha was kept in the dark about this honor and was so surprised. She's one of those folks who works so hard for the success of her local club, as well as AVSA.

I was so pleased to see **Iris Keating** receive a **Continuing Service Award**. Although Iris was unable to join us in Tucson, we were certainly thinking about her during the award presentations. Iris was chairman of the AVSA Plant Registration Committee from 1990 to 2001, reporting in each AVM issue those African violets that were newly registered. Iris is also the person I turn to for help with African violet and other gesneriad words and spellings. (It took me a long time to learn that if a plant is singular it is capitalized and italicized, and if it's plural, with an added 's', it is not!) I truly appreciate knowing that Iris is just a phone call away!

There were many changes in the convention schedule this year, but we heard no complaints and were pleased that everything went smoothly. The hosting clubs did a great job

with publicity, and we had several hundred local folks attending the show and shopping in the sales area.

There are also going to be changes with this magazine, beginning with the September/October issue. No longer will the list of AVSA Judges and Teachers, AVSA Affiliated Clubs, and AVSA Commercial Members appear as a supplement in that issue. Instead, these listings will be available from the AVSA office. Details for ordering from the office will appear in the September/October issue.

The AVML supplement that always appears in the Nov./Dec. AVM is going to be posted for download on the AVSA Web Site and copies will also be available through the office. Details about ordering will appear in the Sept./Oct. AVM.

Our two new columnists are debuting in this issue. I am very pleased to have such knowledgeable contributors to the AVM. **Sharon Holtzman**, Ohio, is alternating the 'For Beginners' column with **Elmer Godeny**, and **Sue Haffner**, California, is alternating the 'Question Box' column with **Ralph Robinson**. I think you'll enjoy these two new additions to the AVM line-up!

For a list of the National Show Winners, turn to page 16. Also, to see what other members of AVSA received special awards, go to page 10.

I'm running another fine article from the past in this issue, another "Worth Repeating". **David Buttram** wrote this excellent article on **Plant Nutrition**, which appeared in the March 1986 AVM. Although some of the products mentioned may have changed, or may no longer be available, this article is an excellent in-depth analysis of the nutritional needs of African violets.

Opera's **IL Straniero**, the cover of the May/June issue,
was hybridized by D. Burdick.

Office Update



Jenny Daugereau
AVSA Office Manager
2375 North Street
Beaumont, TX 77702
email: avsa@earthlink.net

The Tucson convention was a great success. There were many beautiful violets and the designs were outstanding. The Doubletree Hotel was a wonderful place to stay. The grounds were beautiful, with all kinds of cactus growing alongside the exquisite orange and tangerine trees. I enjoyed picking fresh fruit for the first time. The tours were selected to give convention attendees a feel of the great southwest, and even though I was too busy to take many, I did get to the Sonora Desert Museum before we left for home. There was so much to see. Ruth and I walked all over the museum grounds and really enjoyed seeing it all.

The new convention schedule seemed to be a hit. The Thursday night banquet was outside on the lawn under a clear sky. We were entertained by the local high school mariachi band, and were very impressed.

The Luncheon Auction earned over \$5,000, with leaves from a Russian hybridizer selling for as much as \$66 each! Our friend and AVSA member from Russia, **Vladimir Kalgin**, brought the leaves to the convention.

The local clubs did a great job of getting the word out that we would be in Tucson, and we had over 500 local people come to the show. I think that has to be a record. Thanks so much to **Kathy Bell** and her crew for a great job well done. A special 'thank you' to **Barbara** and **Arne Fuller**, even with the loss of his mother the day before convention, they both helped as much as they could.

One of the fun things about going to a new city each year

is the chance to make new friends. I made many this year. **Char** and **Bob Earnstein** were a great help at the registration desk, and Bob took on the job of taking money at the door for those visiting the show. We nicknamed Bob "Mule, Jr.", ("Mule" was already taken by **Harry Weber**) as he ran all of our errands and carried our boxes all over the hotel. I really enjoyed getting to know both Char and Bob. A big 'thank you' also to **Hattie** and **Amos Baggett**, **Myrtle** and **Harry Fowler**, **Terry Richey**, **Barbara Kozlowski**, **Betty Smith**, **Sharon Hill**, **Marge Benson**, **Ruth Connors**, **Tom DeRousse**, and **Loretta Browning** for their help at registration. I must thank my friend **Susan Merski** not only for her help with registration, but for making a video tape of a favorite television show for me to watch when I got back to Texas. The Arizona people are really great!

Harry Weber and **Elmer Godney** certainly made registration much easier for me. I couldn't have run the table without them. Harry was at the registration table before 7 am, carried boxes, ran errands, and moved us to a new location. Elmer helped close every night, sell tickets, and anything else we needed. AVSA is lucky to have them both.

Summer is here. **From June 15th through September 15th we will be open from 8:30 to 3:30.** Please call the office during those hours.

I hope you all have a safe summer, and wherever you are, stay cool and keep those violets growing.

Attention: All Members of AVSA

Starting with the Sept./Oct. 2004 issue, the following information will not be published in the *African Violet Magazine*:

- AVSA Judges and Teachers
- AVSA Affiliated Clubs
- AVSA Commercial Members

These lists will be available from the AVSA office in September.

Details on how to order will appear in the Sept./Oct. AVM.



Sharon Holtzman
6971 Olentangy Lane
Newtown, OH 45244
email: MsViolet@att.net

In The Beginning

I'm sure that all of you who have had the opportunity to read the articles that have been written by Kent and Joyce Stork join me in thanking them sincerely for taking the time to share with all of us their expert advice on African violet culture. They are very special people.

I've been growing African violets since about 1968 and am embarrassed to say that for much of this time I could kill an African violet faster than anyone I knew. I actually thought they were "disposable" plants. When the fresh shipments arrived at the nursery or grocery store, I bought the one with the biggest head of bloom, and it was usually dead by time the next shipment arrived.

Things changed for me in the late 80's when I spotted some violets in 4" pots at a local florist. Because I had never seen a variegated violet before, I thought the \$9.95 price tag meant that it was something rare. To give you all a giggle, this "rare" violet was 'Tiger'. An AVSA culture folder was tucked into my shopping bag so out of curiosity I sent for a membership. I can't begin to tell you the thrill I experienced seeing that first magazine.

One of the first articles I read was about growing under fluorescent lights. The only ones available to me were in the rafters of my basement. So, when my husband left for the office, I headed for the hardware store to buy a sheet of plywood and lots of chain and had what I thought to be two great light shelves nailed up in no time. (It would be several months later that I was to find out why my engineering husband insisted that "swinging" light shelves are not prac-

tical, but that is a disaster story for another time.) My 'Tiger' was happy as a clam on my light shelf.

In that same first issue of the *African Violet Magazine*, I learned that there was a local African violet club within a ten minute drive from my home, so I joined the African Violet Society of Cincinnati. Within nine months of buying my first named hybrid, I was lucky enough to win Best of Show with 'Tiger'. I choose to think of this event as the **beginning** of my African violet adventure that continues to thrill me to this day.

Looking back, there are so many things I know now that I wish I had known then, and in the next couple articles I will share some of the most important ones in hopes of saving novice growers some major disappointments and frustrations.

The best advice that I can give to anyone who is interested in growing African violets is to join the African Violet Society of America and read the *African Violet Magazine* cover to cover...at least twice. Hopefully you will be lucky enough to find that there is a local club that you can join, and take advantage of the personal assistance you will receive from the members as you begin your own African violet adventure. By all means, check the magazines for dates and locations of annual African violet judged shows and try to attend as many as you can for inspiration.

Enthusiasm is necessary to be successful at any hobby. I found it easy to get very excited about growing African violets, but enthusiasm needs to be tempered with a little

common sense and restraint. A novice grower would do well to keep one violet alive long enough to grow it to perfection before maxing out a credit card in an attempt to grow every new release offered. I should mention that I was just such a novice. In the first few years, I was disappointed time and again, as many African violets that I fell in love with failed to thrive under my growing conditions. There are a couple of variegated violets that I have tried more than once to grow, and they just hate it at my house.

The size of the violet you want to grow should also be considered. If you must grow on a windowsill in natural light you won't want to start with a variety that is considered 'large.' Your violet growing experience will only continue to give you joy if you are successful, so growing a plant that will fit the location is most important. A miniature or semi miniature trailer might just be the perfect thing to start with to build your confidence. They are the most accommodating plants

and do so well in natural light.

You might begin growing African violets with no intention of ever entering one for competition, but you never know. Those blue ribbons are such a treat to receive. With that in mind, I cannot stress strongly enough that you must "know what you grow". That "purple one" that you bought is only one of several thousand "purple ones", and there might come a time when you will need to know which one you have. It is so much easier to keep good records from the very beginning than to have to do some frustrating detective work later on.

Next time I will move away from generalities and share with you some very specific growing experiences for beginners on their African violet adventure. In the meantime, if there are any specific topics that you would like to see covered do not hesitate to let me know.

Wishing you all good growing!



PUTTING TUBERS AND RHIZOMES TO BED

by Marge Huntley

Tuber - A woody food and water-storage root, very hard, round, and almost indestructible.

Rhizome - A specialized portion of the root, which carries the plant through dormancy.

Gesneriad rhizomes are elongated, scaly, and vary in thickness according to the plant species.

Sinningia is the most commonly grown tuberous plant. Florist's Gloxinia is really *Sinningia speciosa* and has a sturdy tuber. Many of these have been discarded by buyers who think their plant has died, when it has simply gone into dormancy.

Rhizomatous plants include: *Achimenes*, *Diastema*, *Eucodonia*, *Gloxinia* (the real one), *Kohleria*, and *Pearcea*.

Tuberous plants get very shabby after flowering and should be taken off wick watering so that you can gradually lessen the amount of water given them. Trim off all dead foliage, leaving the balance to die off in its own time. Leave a good stub when foliage is eventually trimmed. This seems to prevent the tuber from becoming "blind" and refusing to sprout. When over-wintering tuberous and rhizomatous plants, they should not be allowed to become bone dry, but should be given a little water.

In a couple of months, new growth will show on the tuber and then is time to re-pot.

The above holds for all *Sinningia* except the tiny *S. pusilla* 'White Sprite', etc. They do not die down but should be re-potted at least once a year. Keep spent stems trimmed.

With rhizomatous plants, during growth and flowering, there will be very few, if any, rhizomes in the potting mix. They develop when flowering has ceased and the foliage starts to become shabby. Nature steps in, producing rhizomes to enable the species to continue.

We can help this rhizome development by stressing the plants a little, for instance, reducing water. Remove from reservoirs, water occasionally until all growth has died, then trim, as there is no need for stubs. Rhizomes can be stored in their pot of soil, but need a little water to prevent the dry soil from desiccating the rhizomes. Or, rhizomes can be harvested and stored in barely damp vermiculite in a labeled plastic bag.

As rhizomes show their first growth, which is easier to see if they are left unpotted, they should be planted. Some have a shorter dormancy time than others.

From the Newsletter of the Early Morn AV Group, Australia

In Search of New Violets



Dr. Jeff Smith
The Indiana Academy
Ball State University
Muncie, IN 47306
email: JSmith4@bsu.edu

A question was raised on one of the African violet e-mail groups about the use of a standard set of genetic symbols for traits in African violets as is done with other organisms. Dr. Sheldon Reed, one of the first geneticists to study African violets, published several lists of symbols and traits, but they have not been widely used by hybridizers. I've gone to my files and pulled up Dr. Reed's papers from the 1950's and early 1960's. I can identify some of the traits he listed, but others were unique to specific cultivars which have become lost over time. The inheritance pattern of other traits was later found to be incorrect or lacking sufficient proof. The list below represents an updated version of Dr. Reed's original lists. In some cases, I've added the more current name for the trait or the cultivar that was the source of the letter choice for the genotype symbol.

Dominant Traits - Flowers

- Girl Foliage – G
- Double Flowers – D
- Dilution Factor for lighter colors in the flowers (from 'Pink Amethyst') – A
- Geneva edges (white edges on flowers – from 'Lady Geneva') – Ge
- Fringed Flowers – Fr
- Five Dots on the flower petals (same as Dogwood dots) – Fd
- Miracle (darker pink edge on pink flowers as in 'Pink Miracle') – M
- Butterfly (from 'Moire Butterfly' - flowers are light color with darker streaks) – Bu
- Ruby (darker pigmentation on the two top lobes of the flower – same as tipped flowers) – Ru

Comment - I'm not certain if M, Bu, or Ru are really separate traits, but evidence has supported the dominant inheritance of any type of edging on the flowers.

Dominant Traits - Foliage

- Holly Foliage – H
- Papillose (raised dots on the leaves – same as strawberry foliage) – Pe
- Watermelon veins (same as Clackamus foliage as seen in 'Clackamus Rattler') – Wa
- Basket (flower stem produces a small plant like a runner) – B
- Longifolia foliage – L

Recessive Traits

- Red Flowers – r
- Pink Flowers – p
- White Flowers – w
- Star flowers – st
- Spoon Foliage – sp

What is not readily apparent from these symbols is the phenotype or physical appearance of the alternate form of the trait. For example, **G** gives girl foliage, but the recessive **gg** gives boy foliage. The homozygous recessive **rr** gives red flowers, but the dominant **R** gives blue flowers. A generalization might be made that the phenotype for the other expression of the trait is the "normal" appearance for this trait in a wild type African violet.

Q: When recording a cross, does it matter which order the parents are listed?

A: The standard convention is that the seed parent is listed first. Thus a cross of 'Rainbow's Quiet Riot' X 'Louisiana Lagniappe' implies that 'Rainbow's Quiet Riot' was used as the seed parent and was pollinated by 'Louisiana Lagniappe'. By the way, this cross has a good potential to produce blue flowers with white fantasy marks

and red raspberry edges which should be an interesting combination of colors.

Q: *Is it possible for variegated plants with green edged flowers to also show the variegation in the flowers?*

A: Yes, I've seen white variegated areas in the green edged flowers of 'Frozen in Time' and 'Frosty Frolic'. Both plants have variegated leaves. Flowers are thought to be modified leaves. Green flowers in African violets have been found to have chlorophyll and leaf pores called stomata so they are very similar to the leaves. Therefore, it shouldn't be too surprising to find the leaf variegation to carry over into the green edges of the flowers.

Q: *Would it be possible to create a green edged wasp shaped flower?*

A: Yes, I've actually seen a picture in the picture folders of the Wasp plant e-mail group of such a flower. The hybridizer used a white wasp seedling and crossed it with 'Frozen in Time'. Wasp is a dominant flower shape and showed in the first generation. Apparently, green edges were also dominant as they were also expressed in the first generation. The traits were combined in a few seedlings, resulting in wasp flowers with green edges.

Q: *If I crossed a plant with extensive mosaic variegation with a plant with light mosaic variegation, what kind of variegation should the offspring have?*

A: The amount of variegation should be controlled by the seed parent. The expression of mosaic variegation depends on the ratio of normal to mutant chloroplasts in the leaf cells. Since chloroplasts are inherited through the seed parent, this parent should control the number of mutant chloroplasts in the cells and therefore the amount of variegation. If you want offspring with extensive mosaic variegation, choose a plant with this trait for your seed parent.

Q: *I've seen mosaic variegated plants that were bright green with silver variegation and others that were dark green with pink or tan variegation. Which color is the dominant trait?*

A: The difference between these two colors of mosaic variegation is not due to the variegation, but to the red surface layer on the back of the leaves. The presence of the red backed trait is a genetic dominant. If the trait is absent (homozygous recessive), the back side of the leaves will be pale. The leaves should appear lighter green, and the non-green areas will be silver. If the red back trait is present, the surface on the back of the leaves will be red. The leaves will appear darker green and the non-green areas will be tan or pink. The exact shade of color will depend on if the red backed trait is heterozygous (one dose) or homozygous dominant (two doses). The later form will produce more red pigment which will further darken the colors in the leaves. The red backed leaf trait is not sex-linked and can be inherited from either parent.

Overcrowding

by Cheryl Salatino

Many African violet growers know all too well that overcrowding can usher in problems. It's the never-ending story of adding one more baby plant to the collection. As those babies grow up, space becomes the first challenge.

Let's define space requirements. African violets should be placed approximately 3 (or more) inches away from each other on the plant shelf. Those plants that are touching or cannot be easily turned around without hitting a neighbor are too close.

Sticking to this simple spacing rule allows the plant to become stronger and healthier. The benefits are many:

- 1) Good air circulation - critical to prevent fungal diseases.
- 2) Room to spread out - helps plants develop symmetry.
- 3) Deters the spread of certain pests - hinders crawlers ability to infest other plants.
- 4) Lessens breakage - what I call 'unintended grooming'.
- 5) Easier to water - and faster too.

What should you do if you have created overcrowded conditions? Here are a handful of suggestions that won't require adding more shelves:

1. Groom existing plants. Remove outer rows of leaves that show signs of stress or are not the appropriate size (e.g. smaller, immature leaves).
2. Eliminate varieties that are no longer favorites. Find new growers who will love the plants the way you used to.
3. Restrict growth by maintaining larger varieties in smaller sized pots. You'll probably notice more bloom too.
4. Choose new varieties that will be smaller when mature. There are so many wonderful small standards, semi-minis, and minis to choose from today.
5. Manage the population explosion. Sell, exchange, or give away duplicate plants. It'll be easier to retrieve a leaf when someone else is growing the variety too.

Unfortunately, overcrowding is a chronic problem that all African violet lovers share. It's best to discipline yourself early before things get out of control!

From *Ye Bay Stater*, publication of the Bay State AVS

AVSA 2004 SPECIAL SOCIETY AWARDS

Nancy Hayes - Honorary Life Membership

Nancy is a Life Member of AVSA, a Master Judge, Judging School Teacher, Director, and AVSA Secretary. Nancy has been a member or leader of more than 10 AVSA committees and has attended over 30 national conventions where she presents the Social Hour Slide Show. Nancy wrote the informative Question Box column in the AVM for nearly 10 years and has also served AVSA Treasurer.

Bill Foster - Distinguished Service Award

Bill received a One Year Honorary Membership in 1989 and an Honorary Life Membership to AVSA in 2001, at the close of his AVSA Presidency. He has been the Chairman of AVSA Shows & Judges Committee for many years. Bill is a Master Judge, a Judging School Teacher, and a Columnist for the AVM. Bill has given distinguished service to AVSA and has earned this honorable award.

Agatha Garrison - Hudson Memorial Award

Agatha is a dedicated member of the Albuquerque AVC in New Mexico. Even though she is now in her eighties, she travels to the national conventions. She was the first member in her club to get e-mail and has used it to promote the club and keep the publicity up to date. Agatha has served as the Vice-President of the Albuquerque AVC and is their AVSA representative. She handles hospitality, gives programs, and is constantly working to gain new members. Her club members say, "Agatha is very outgoing and very generous. She gives of herself as well as her plants." Recently, Agatha has also written for the AVM.

Barbara Elkin - Continuing Service Award

Barbara received One Year Honorary Membership awards in 1991 and 1999. She helped start, and has been the dedicated Vintage Violet columnist for the past ten years. In addition, Barbara has chaired the AVSA Nominating Committee, and serves on Awards, Convention, and the Membership and Promotions committees. Barbara is a Master Judge and a Judging School teacher. She is always sharing her experiences and in-depth knowledge with us through articles in the AVM. Barbara is also willing to help out whenever she can lend a hand.

Joe Bruns - Continuing Service Award

Joe received a One Year Honorary Membership award in 2000. He continues to serve AVSA as Chairman of Master List of Species & Cultivars, and provides the annual supplement for AVM publication. Joe wrote the popular First Class program for AVSA and keeps it up to date. In addition, he is a member of

the Convention, Technology, and Internet committees, and produces the award cards used each year at the AVSA convention shows. The First Class program, with its comprehensive index and photo identification, is very popular with AVSA members. During the 2003 convention User Introductory class to First Class it was aptly put, "... Joe Bruns has created a wonderful, user-friendly tool for violet growers everywhere."

Iris Keating - Continuing Service Award

Iris received a One Year Honorary Membership award in 1993. She was recipient of the Hudson Memorial Award in 1998. Iris is a Life Member, a Master Judge, and has served on the AVSA Board of Directors. She conscientiously chaired the AVSA Plant Registration Committee from 1990 - 2001. This is a tremendous job which requires lots of time, research, and bookkeeping. Iris has served on numerous other AVSA committees which recently included the Bylaws Committee, and provides guidance to the Editor of the AVM. She truly deserves our thanks for her tireless enthusiasm and jobs well done.

AVSA Certificate of Appreciation - Walther H. Ott

Walther H. Ott became a member of Union County Chapter (UCC) African Violet Society in New Jersey during the 1979-80 year. He knew Max Maas, the well known hybridizer, and accepted Max's last seedling upon the latter's death in 1981. Walther became a "shepherd" of the Max Maas seedlings/hybrids. He keeps detailed records of their progress and awards won and has written articles for the AVM about them. Always interested in learning and sharing his knowledge, Walther has been the Education chairman of UCC since 1982. He prepares and staffs the education exhibit at every UCC show and is still actively encouraging AVSA membership. Now in his 90's, Walther still grows African violets plus puts together African violet "kits" (plant, reservoir, and instructions) which he donates to the gift shop at Arbor Glen, the senior citizen home where he lives. AVSA would like to recognize this dedicated member for his personal effort to keep the Maas' hybrids viable, and for his never ending enthusiasm for African violets and AVSA.

Dr. Elmer Godeny - One Year Honorary Membership

Elmer served AVSA as the Convention Chairman for the 2003 Baton Rouge Convention. He has been growing African violets since 1994 and has been very involved in affiliate clubs and at the national level. Elmer is a member and has held offices in the Sundowners' AVS in Baton Rouge and the Louisiana Council of AV Judges and Growers. He is currently serving as an AVSA Director, and is or has been a member of

the Research, the Convention Schedule Revision, and the Convention Pre-Proposal Committees.

Mary McFarland - One Year Honorary Membership

2003 Baton Rouge Show Chairman Mary has been growing African violets for many years. She volunteered to chair the show at the 2003 Baton Rouge Convention, but unfortunately, ran into health problems before everything was complete. Mary stayed involved as much as possible throughout the show. Mary is an AVSA Senior Judge and is involved with local affiliates and the Louisiana Council of AV Judges and Growers.

Dr. Robert Truax - One Year Honorary Membership

2003 Baton Rouge Show Co-Chairman Robert was instrumental in putting on the 57th Annual AVSA Convention in Baton Rouge. Serving as the Assistant Show Chairman, he worked tirelessly in the showroom. Robert also served as Co-Chair of the Staging Committee, Chair of the Clean Up Committee, and as the Shows and Judges Chairman's Assistant. He set up the Show room staging and was in charge of its breakdown, plus assisted with the show awards after judging was complete. Robert has been a member of AVSA since 1994 when he began growing violets. He is a member of Dixie AVS, the AVS of Canada, and AGGS. He joined Sundowners' AVS in 1994 and has served as Corresponding Secretary, Secretary, and is currently the Treasurer. He has been the club's Show Chairman four times.

Edna Rourke - One Year Honorary Membership

Edna has been a member of AVSA for 27 years, is a Life Member, and a Senior Judge. She has served on the Convention and Affiliate Committees and belongs to numerous AV groups: Naugatonic AVS, Nutmeg State AVS, Tri-State AVS, Tri-State Judges Council, and Mid-Atlantic AVS. She's been providing entertainment and funding for Ways & Means through the AVSA Auction luncheon. This is a major undertaking which she pulls together graciously each year. Edna has tried her hand at hybridizing (Tar-Jar) and exhibits in both horticulture and design. She has given classes on the local, regional, and national levels in both horticulture and design.

Barbara Pershing - One Year Honorary Membership

Barbara has been growing African violets for over thirty years. She became a member of AVSA in 1991 and has served AVSA as its Publications Chairman. Barbara is known for her leadership and newsletter skills in the Missouri Valley AV Council and Cedar Valley AVC - Iowa. She is an African

violet judge and a Master Gardener. Barbara helps out whenever possible at the AVSA conventions. In addition to this, she manages to write articles for the AVM, which have gained reprint status and won awards.

Pat Sutton - One Year Honorary Membership

From Tulsa, Oklahoma, Pat jumped in with both feet when she joined the Shows & Judges Committee and took over as the AVSA Show Schedule Approver. Pat is also a member of the Membership & Promotion and Research committees. She is an AVSA Senior Judge and Judging School Teacher.

Pat Richards - One Year Honorary Membership

We all feel we know Pat Richards through her column in the AVM, "Thinking Small." Pat is a proven award-winning grower who shares so much with the African violet world through her writing and involvement in committees and on the Internet. She has given informative programs to local clubs in her home state of Kansas, for regional groups, and for AVSA. Pat is an AVSA Senior Judge, Chairman of the Commercial Sales & Exhibits, and a member of the Finance Committee.

Bill Paauwe - One Year Honorary Membership

Bill Paauwe has been an active AVSA commercial vendor for a number of years - Violets by Appointment in West Sayville, NY. In 1999 he and his wife, Kathryn, "retired." Bill and Kathryn still attend conventions and are involved on many levels. Bill has been putting together the AVM Annual Index since 1993. It appears in the back of each Jan/Feb issue and is an invaluable resource. He also occasionally finds time to write articles for the magazine.

Floyd Lawson - One Year Honorary Membership

Floyd is someone who works in the background, but he attempts to contact every member of AVSA each year. Floyd has been compiling the Honor Roll of African Violets and the Year's Best Variety List for over ten years. Individuals and clubs send in their "favorite African violet" lists, and he takes it from there. Floyd is an AVSA Senior Judge.

Tom Glembocki - One Year Honorary Membership

Tom Glembocki conceived and produced the first photo CD of the AVSA National Show in Washington, D.C. This proved to be a tremendous hit, plus a great Ways & Means product, and was followed by a popular CD of the National Show in Baton Rouge, LA. Tom is married to Libbie Glembocki of Bluebird Greenhouse, Apex, NC, and he also grows African violets.



Thinking Small



Pat Richards

15105 S. Seminole Drive
Olathe, KS 66062-3004
email: Patter257@aol.com

Small, but perfect. That's the response many people heard when asking why Susan Hapner's 'Persian Prince' stood above all other violets and won Best in Show at the "Fiesta of Violets" 58th annual AVSA Convention Show in Tucson. From the back of the room, this delightful miniature looked like a punctuation mark, a mere afterthought, compared to the other plants on the awards table. On close examination though, the sheer perfection of this tiny cultivar stood out. Before judging, Susan had commented on the perfection of this plant, but, after all, it was a mini, and a rather uninteresting one at that, having light to medium green girl foliage and plain purple blooms. The judges didn't care though. Perhaps it was the decorative scalloping of the edges of the leaves, or the freshness of the blossoms, or the ultra-clean appearance of the plant. Truth be told, it was all three, and the lady from St. Louis headed home with the top prize and a tiny plant somewhat similar to "The Little Engine That Could". 'Persian Prince', a Lyon cultivar, may be small and plain, but it is a pure performer!

AMATEUR AWARD WINNERS

The Gold Rosette for Best AVSA Small Collection was won by Kathy Lahti of Minnesota, who is no stranger to the award table. Kathy won with 'Optimara Little Aztec' (purple-red blooms over dark foliage), 'Hondo Honey' (a Pittman hybrid with fuchsia red blooms above symmetrical medium green foliage) and 'Definitely Darryl' (another Pittman hybrid, well-known for beautiful forming variegated foliage topped by lavender-purple, white edged blooms.) These three semiminis were only a few of Kathy's wonderful semis exhibited in the show. Taking the Purple Rosette for 2nd Best Small Collection was Susan Hapner with her Best in Show 'Persian Prince', 'Gleeful Elf' (Pittman's blue with white edge blossomed mini on small-growing medium green foliage, and 'Petite Jewel' (another Pittman standout - variegated foliage topped by purple/white edged blooms). Tucson's Allan Reith took Sweepstakes in Horticulture with over 40 blue-ribbon

entries. His collection included 'Irish Flirt' (also judged Best 'Irish Flirt' in show), Lyon's 'June Bug' (a beautifully forming variegated semi with fuchsia red blooms), and 'Ness' Satin Rose'. The latter was remarkably small for this pink with darker pink double blooms atop dark, rounded foliage. We all know this is a very heavy blooming plant that has a tendency to grow so enthusiastically as to place it well beyond the limits of an 8-inch ring. Another noticeable plant in the collections class was grown by Barbara Miller with 'Aca's Georgene', a lovely Brownlie hybrid with very attractive pink Tommie-Lou variegation that nicely framed its raspberry fantasy blooms.

Kathy Lahti also took home the top Holtkamp Award for Optimara collections with 'Optimara Little Sapphire', 'Optimara Little Opal', and 'Optimara Little Ruby'. Each was grown to perfection, with symmetrical and even-sized foliage, and an excellent quantity of blooms held well above the foliage. Barbara Williams from Ontario took home the award for 3rd Best Holtkamp Collection with 'Optimara Little Diamond', 'Optimara Little Pearl', and 'Optimara Little Crystal'. Well done, Barbara! From Kathy Lahti's Best Robinson Collection came the 2nd Best African Violet in the entire show: 'Rob's Monkeyshines'. Kathy grows this plant to perfection with very symmetrical, medium to light green foliage topped by uniquely attractive lavender, purple and almost magenta chimera blooms. It truly is a lovely cultivar! The other two plants in her collection were 'Rob's Little Pueblo' with striking coral/dusty rose blooms atop dark foliage and 'Rob's Lucky Stroke', another chimera with pink and white blooms atop nice-forming medium green foliage.

SMALL AND BEAUTIFUL

Among the amateur exhibits, there were several plants that stood out just a little bit above the rest. These included 'Ness' Pixie Grin', a semi with beautiful Tommie-Lou variegated foliage topped by blooms colored in rose with a darker eye and edge. Nelly Levine drove from Colorado with several

exquisite entries including 'California Sunset' by Darryl Hoover, a plant with perfect Tommie-Lou variegation of white and dark green, that holds its variegation very consistently. The foliage provides good contrast to the medium colored fuchsia-red blooms. Another beauty from Nelly was 'Ness' Crinkle Blue', a perennial show plant which grows so easily, but Nelly's was something with a little extra: extra dark, symmetrical foliage with an abundance of richly dark blue blooms with a strong white edge. It was superlative! Another eye-catcher grown by Nelly was 'Midget Gum Drop', with its striking hot-pink blooms that literally 'popped' when held in contrast with the tantalizing green and yellow mosaic foliage!

Palma Trapp from Minnesota entered some delightful and delightfully small plants including 'Rob's Boogie Woogie', a champion semi-mini with cotton candy pink blooms held above perfectly growing crown variegated foliage. Another beauty was 'Rob's Fiddle Faddle', the excellent show plant with hairy dark green pointed foliage topped with a copious amount of two-tone rose blooms. It's a proven show plant that deserves to be grown more widely. First time exhibitor EVER in shows, Trina Smith from Wyoming, exhibited a nicely grown, blue ribbon winning 'Rob's Slap Happy', crowned by a ring of vibrant coral-pink blooms above dynamic chartreuse green crown variegated foliage. Last year's 3rd Best in Show winner, Linda Golubski from Blue Springs, Missouri, exhibited a lovely 'Trinket Summer Skies' showing green and gold crown variegation with medium purple blooms. Another oldie in the show was Pittman's 'Magic Blue' shown by Ron Ennis of New Jersey. This plant is a true performer: medium green, rounded foliage which shapes so nicely, topped by double blue blooms with a strong white edge. Allan Reith showed the exceptional white 'Ness' Sno Fun', which is one of the easiest growing whites around. Its blooms are held well above medium green, easy growing foliage, and it is never a problem putting blooms on this plant!

'Aca's Eloise' (named after one of the Brownlie's granddaughters), exhibited by Barb Hostetler, Arizona, and Judy Carter of Oklahoma, looked enticing with its blooms of white blending into a rosy eye and edge, held well above shiny medium green foliage slightly reminiscent of petrocosmeas! Judy also exhibited 'Petite Blarney', as did Mary Welch from California. Both plants showed what a nice plant this one is: light to medium green symmetrical girl foliage topped with shell pink blooms with a strong dose of green on the edge. It's a truly 'tiny performer'. An 'up and comer' plant is 'Alys' Blizzard Bunny' which those who grow for show are catching on to. Grown by Melissa Shopwitz and Fran Ratte of Colorado, this neat little grower has emerald green rounded

foliage with purest snow white double blooms. Finally, congratulations to Doris Morris of Arizona for entering the best 'Mickey Mouse' in the show. Anyone unfamiliar with this miniature with dark green foliage and dark blue blooms should try it simply for its ease of growth.

MY RECOMMENDED LIST

Charlotte Howson of Connecticut asked for my 'recommended list' for show. Many of those plants are listed above, so now is a good time to go through them. 'Little Pro' by Pittman is, according to me, the perfect plant. Dark, symmetrical foliage (it doesn't grow any other way!) easily puts up an abundance of single light pink blooms frosted with a touch of 'sugar crystals'. 'Ness' Sno Fun', mentioned above, is a 'grow forever' cultivar, as is 'Ness' Crinkle Blue'. Whenever these plants are grown, you're always in contention for Best in Class if not Best in Show. 'Rob's Fiddle Faddle' is a proven winner. It has a nasty habit of throwing a 2nd crown when brought into heavy bloom, but if you want a winner, this is it! 'Rob's Calypso Beat' is sheer perfection ALL the time. Superb production of pink with purple fantasy blooms on purely perfect foliage typifies this cultivar. 'Irish Flirt' is not beloved by everyone, but for a proven performer it must be grown! Its green and white blooms hold very well, and are prolifically produced atop wavy, very attractive, symmetrical emerald green foliage. Finally, Pittman's 'Cool Teen' simply doesn't disappoint with its sheer shimmering medium blue blooms easily produced above dark green symmetrical foliage.

As for minis, 'Dean's Ivory Lace' is one I'll grow forever. This purely perfect dark green foliage trimmed in very stable ivory white, topped by a snow cone of ivory blooms is sheer perfection. 'Ness' Angel Babe' is perfection in pink with its dark green perfectly symmetrical foliage topped by medium pink slightly fluted and ruffled blooms in excellent quantities. 'Orchard's Bumble Magnet' is outstanding with pale pink blooms above nicely growing medium green foliage. Don't confuse it with 'Orchards Wonder Twin' with very light, pale pink blooms held above lighter green foliage. Both grow and do very well! 'Persian Prince' has to be right up there. Although it's not the most flashy of plants, actually none of those I'm mentioning are...they're all simply exceptionally reliable, proven performers with no surprises. Grow 'em and show 'em!

There are many others that are flashy, showy, and also deserving of trying, but I won't recommend them in my 'best' list. We'll deal with them next time, when the commercial entries and show results are discussed. Take care and we'll talk next time!



What's Bugging You?

by Lisa Reynolds

What's that I see on my blossoms? No it couldn't be....SPILLED POLLEN? Oh no, does this mean I have THRIPS?? But I don't see anything darting around when I flick the bloom and blow on it! All I see is a speck of dust or pollen or something. That speck is MOVING! What am I seeing? I must be over tired, but I am sure that that speck actually moved!

Sound familiar? Well if it does, then you can bet that you have a not so welcome visitor to your collection known as the Broad Mite!

Reference books and horticultural magazines are not too specific about these tiny creatures. They don't mention much about what to look for to identify these demons, other than tight, stunted centers and leaf edges that are rolled under along the edges. These same symptoms can sometimes simply be an objection to a cultural condition.

After conversing with some of my colleagues, I discovered that I was not the only one who had been visited with these little pests and that each one of us was experiencing similar symptoms. Initially, spilled pollen was noticed and usually a little trail of pollen would lead from the center of the bloom to the outer edges. Upon closer examination under a 10 power loupe (the kind that photographers use), one might describe the tiny hairs on the leaf surface as looking like a pile of straws, pointing this way and that, looking quite unruly. In extreme cases, the centers of the plants were also affected, looking pale and slightly smaller than normal. Broad mites feed on blooms and leaf surfaces causing deformities and sometimes pale foliage, and even bronzing of some foliage. The unusual thing about it was that these mites definitely had their favorite varieties. While some plants were recognizable as having a problem of some sort, other plants on the same stand and even on the same shelf seemed unaffected. This was most confusing in the diagnosis, as we are taught early in plant health education that when a pest is identified in your collection you can bet that the whole collection will be affected.

If you looked very closely and were lucky, you would see a small, translucent, oval shaped insect marching around the leaf or bloom surface. This was usually only possible with the help of a magnifying device, as to the blind eye the mites were too small to be identified.

The next question was: what to do? There are many products on the market today that are good for whatever ails your plants, but it is difficult to find something that is specifically designed for mites. (That is, something that will kill the little buggers and not just give them a nice clean bath). There currently is a product called "AVID" which has been labeled the number one Miticide that is successful in ridding collections of

both "Broad Mite and Cyclamen Mite". Three consecutive sprayings, 7-10 days apart is suggested, making sure to cover the top and underside leaf surfaces, as well as the surface of the soil. As when using all insecticides and pesticides, proper clothing, protective eyewear, and breathing apparatus should be used. After all, it would be a shame for one to fall ill from a hobby that brings so much pleasure. It has been my experience that keeping the lights turned off on the stand at least a full day prior to spraying and at least a day after, works to your advantage. Mites of any kind do not like the light and will burrow deep in the foliage and blooms to simply get away. It is then more difficult to reach them when spraying. If they are not subjected to light, the mites are more apt to be "out and about" on your plants. Disbudding is also recommended. This simply makes your job easier as this is one less place for the mites to hide. To the amateur grower, this is most disheartening, especially when your plants are flowering, but believe me, they will thank you in the end with a spectacular show of blooms and healthy foliage.

As soon as the plants have dried from each spraying, it is safe to reintroduce them to your lights. Watch them closely in the weeks to follow and let them come into bloom once again. If you were diligent in your spray regimen, and with a little luck, you should start to see improvement in those plants that were not looking "quite right". Tight centers will start to loosen up and those leaves with the curled edges will grow out to be removed when grooming. If you don't see an improvement, remember the old adage "If in doubt, throw it out". Believe me, many prized varieties in my collection that just didn't shape up found their way to the garbage. Don't be upset by this; you can always get a leaf from one of your fellow club members who I am sure will be willing to help you rebuild your collection after this brief set-back. It really makes no sense to jeopardize an entire collection just for the sake of one replaceable variety.

Remember in the future to keep any new introductions, new cuttings or plants, quarantined for up to two months while you monitor their well being. Not doing this is how many pests make their way into our midst. Even though no one would knowingly give you a plant or leaf that is housing unwanted visitors, it does happen. It is much easier to treat a problem that is isolated than to have to treat an entire collection. I have found that dipping a leaf or cutting in "Safer's End All" has given some added insurance with no damage at all. Of course, after working with your outdoor gardens, remember not to enter your plant rooms until you have washed and changed your clothes, as this is also an easy way for pests to hitch a ride inside.

When washing used pots, remember to add a small amount of bleach to your water as this will help to sterilize them for reuse. Keep your work area clean. Dispose promptly of old soil when re-potting. When grooming your plants, throw away those leaves that are damaged. Keep your area neat, tidy, and clean, and dispose of any garbage promptly.

All growers experience unwanted pests at some time.

Don't let it upset you. Don't give up. Ask for help. Chances are that you are not alone in your plight. You will always find your fellow club members willing and ready to help you in your war against the pests, and if necessary, rebuild your collections. A little common sense and a little care will ensure many years of satisfaction. And remember the number one Rule "Have Fun!"

See you at the shows!



MOISTURE CONTROL SOIL!

by Lola Rossi

Only time will tell if the newest variety of soilless soil that has just come on the market will be beneficial to African violets. As many of us have experienced, a lot of the commercially-prepared soils on the market labeled for African violets are so heavy and dark that they spell sure disaster to a lot of our plants. The past couple of years, I always add a generous amount of peat moss to these soils to loosen them up, as my plants clearly tell me they don't like those commercial planting mixes as they are.

But even with the peat moss added, often the soil mix is still just too heavy and retains water too easily. It also becomes hard and compacted and the violets just don't thrive.

Several weeks ago, I discovered two new brands of soil which appear to be much softer and contain a lot more peat moss. They are Schultz Moisture Plus and Miracle Gro Moisture Control, both of which say that the ingredients will enable the plants to draw water only as needed and keep them from drowning in too much moisture. Any plants I have repotted the past few weeks have gone into this new soil, but even with the softer, fluffier texture, I still am adding a bit of my own peat moss to make the soil even lighter. I don't add perlite as my plants don't seem to do as well.

And of course, probably 80% of any of the current potting mixes on the market these days are loaded with time release fertilizer pellets of one variety or another. I learned the hard way a couple of years ago that if your commercial soil has these additives, you can no longer apply your own fertilizer to the water as the plants start to curl up and will eventually die from over-fertilization! The only fertilizer I add these days to the commercial mixes is a mild dose once in a while of Fish Emulsion, which improves the leaves and doesn't 'push' the plants to bloom.

I am currently trying to repot a lot of my plants, especially the younger babies that haven't tried to come into bloom yet, into the new soil mix. Most of them which are planted in the heavier soil just sort of sit there and are not really developing into healthy adult plants that should bloom.

Any of the heavier planting mix I have left is being used for outdoor plants, which don't seem to mind! I am in California, but I assume that Schultz and Miracle Grow distribute their products all over the U.S. so amateur growers like me can give it a try. I do think it is going to be a big improvement over what has been available in recent years.

In addition to enjoying a lighter soil and lots of light, my plants all do best when I plant them in medium sized to large (when I can find them) glass fish bowls or apothecary or canister jars. I add charcoal to the bottom and a nice, soft mix of soil. Of course, you have to be careful not to over-water since these containers do not have drainage holes. The glass acts like a greenhouse, and most of the plants I place in these containers do really well. Any smaller jars can be planted with minis or semi-minis, but I have at least two larger fish bowls that I can plant standards in, and they just take off! I don't have any light stands, but do have lots of windows. I place my favorite plants in several rooms under lamp lights each evening for 4-5 hours or more to help them develop. During the winter months, I don't have a lot of blooms, but when spring arrives, some of my more mature plants start to bloom again. I am looking forward to that!

Editor's Note: When using a new product or making a change in your growing methods, try first on just a few plants at a time.

2004 National Show Winners

Amateur Division

Best African Violet in Show
Persian Prince
Susan Hapner

Second Best African Violet in Show
Rob's Monkeyshines
Kathy Lahti

Third Best African Violet in Show
Suncoast Lavender Silk
Susan Anderson

Best Standard
Suncoast Lavender Silk
Susan Anderson

Best Semiminiature
Rob's Monkeyshines
Kathy Lahti

Best Miniature
Persian Prince
Susan Hapner

Best Trailer
Milky Way Trail
Nelly Levine

Best Species
Saintpaulia grandifolia 11299
Allan Reith, Sr.

Best Vintage Violet
Blue Boy
Doris Morris

Best Other Gesneriad
Sinningia douglasii
Bill Price

Second Best Other Gesneriad
Petrocosmea sericea
Bill Price

Third Best Other Gesneriad
Petrocosmea kerrii
Bill Price

Best AVSA Collection (Standard/Species)
Barbara Ann, Chicago Flair, Rebel's Midnight Mauve
William Sugg

Second Best AVSA Collection (Standard/Species)
Apache Friendship, Makin' Romance,
Ness' Viking Maiden
Hattie Baggett

Best AVSA Collection (Miniature/Semiminiature)
Definitely Darryl, Hondo Honey, Optimara Little Aztec
Kathy Lahti

Second Best AVSA Collection (Miniature/Semiminiature)
Petite Jewel, Persian Prince, Gleeeful Elf
Susan Hapner

Best Holtkamp Collection
Optimara Little Ruby, Optimara Little Opal,
Optimara Little Sapphire

Kathy Lahti
Second Best Holtkamp Collection
Optimara Michigan, Optimara Dominica,
Optimara Oklahoma
Doris Morris

Third Best Holtkamp Collection
Optimara Little Crystal, Optimara Little Diamond,
Optimara Little Pearl
Beverley Williams

Best Robinson Collection
Rob's Little Pueblo, Rob's Lucky Stroke,
Rob's Monkeyshines
Kathy Lahti

Second Best Robinson Collection
Rob's Loose Noodle, Rob Rinky Dink,
Rob Itty Bitty
Betty Smith

Best Buckeye Collection
Buckeye Cranberry Sparkler, Buckeye Candy Kisses,
Buckeye Giftwrapped
Hattie Baggett

Best Design in Show
"Sabino Canyon"
Dolores Gibbs

Second Best Design in Show
"Old Tucson"
Judith M Carter

Third Best Design in Show
"Desert Mirage"
Janice Beatty

Horticultural Sweepstakes
25 Blue Ribbons
Allen Reith, Sr.

Runner-up Horticultural Sweepstakes
21 Blue Ribbons
Esther Hopkins

Design Sweepstakes (Tie)
5 Blue Ribbons
Judith M. Carter

5 Blue Ribbons
Jane Rexilius

Commercial Division

Best African Violet in Show (Commercial Specimen)
Rob's Calypso Beat
Ralph Robinson

Second Best African Violet in Show (Commercial Specimen)
Rob's Outer Orbit
Ralph Robinson

Third Best African Violet in Show (Commercial Specimen)
RD's Kerry
Kent Stork

Best AVSA Standard Collection (Commercial)
Phantom Flash, Smooch Me, Picasso
Kent Stork

Best AVSA Mini/Semimini Collection (Commercial)
Rob's Calypso Beat, Rob's Macho Devil, Rob's Heat Wave
Ralph Robinson

Second Best AVSA Mini/Semimini Collection (Commercial)
Orchard's Bumble Magnet, Planet Kid, Gleeeful Elf
Doris Brownlie

Best Holtkamp Collection (Commercial)
Optimara Chagall, Optimara Seurat, Rhapsodic Rebecca
Kent Stork

Second Best Holtkamp Collection (Commercial)
Optimara Little Crystal, Optimara Little Pearl,
Optimara Rose Quartz
Doris Brownlie

Best Other Gesneriad (Commercial Specimen)
Petrocosmea forrestii
Joyce Stork

Best New Cultivar (Commercial)
Warm Sunshine
Paul Sorano

Second Best New Cultivar (Commercial)
Rob's Lucky Penny
Ralph Robinson

Third Best New Cultivar (Commercial)
Princess K'Rei
Paul Sorano

Commercial Horticulture Sweepstakes
23 Blue Ribbons
Ralph Robinson

Runner Up to Commercial Horticulture Sweepstakes
13 Blue Ribbons
Paul Sorano

Shows and Judges



Bill Foster
Shows and Judges Committee
3610 Gray Drive
Mesquite, TX 75150
email:bpfooster@airmail.net

WOW, that convention in Tucson was great! Kathy Bell, convention chair, Thelma Heinrich, show chair, and all their committee people are to be commended for a job well done. So many AVSA members work hard to present a convention. Thanks to the exhibitors for the beautiful show and to the judges, clerks, consultants, awards committee, and everyone who works so unselfishly to see that the show is ready to open on time. The commercials provide a lot of excitement, too. As I see it, they provide at least two services. They provide all those beautiful plants for us to spend our money on and allow our members to get to know each other much better. I have noticed, when the sales open, all our members get very "close and personal" in their quest to get to the plants!

The judge's breakfast always brings forth some interesting questions, opinions, and discussions. Some of the same questions come up every year, but there are always some new ones, too. Here's one I bet you haven't heard before!

Q. Is it permissible for an exhibitor to use gel rather than water in the underwater arrangement class? This was done in a recent show and the exhibit was awarded.

A. No, it should not have been judged. While this shows creativity on the part of the exhibitor, gel is not the same as water and the schedule calls for underwater, not "under gel."

Q. If cacti or succulents are used in a container garden should it be eliminated from consideration or have points deducted under suitability of materials?

A. Most judges have been taught that if an exhibit doesn't conform, it isn't judged. Some judges may not recognize suc-

culents, so they judge it. Other judges may feel that if the schedule does not state that cacti and succulents are prohibited, they should judge the exhibit. The best advice to the exhibitor is to avoid the use of any questionable material. A lot of work and expense goes into the exhibit, so why take a chance? This will also take some pressure off the judges.

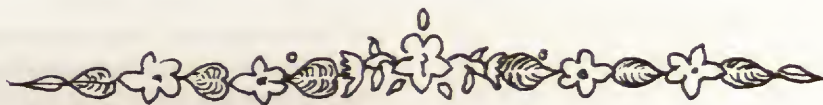
Q. Is a group of twigs stuck in the soil in a container garden acceptable?

A. Twigs should not be used to represent trees or growing plant material. Plants are to be planted and growing in the container. A single twig might be used as an accessory to represent a fallen log, but not planted to represent a tree.

Q. A basket, made of natural materials, was entered in the natural garden class in a recent show. It was awarded a blue ribbon. Should it have been awarded?

A. No, it should not have been judged at all. Just because it is made of natural materials does not make it a natural container. Practically everything originally started out as a natural material. The container should be one that is formed in nature and not manmade from natural materials. Lava rock, sea shells, and driftwood or stumps, are some examples that are used as natural garden containers.

There were a lot of questions, so more discussion will be included in the next column. In the meantime, if you are an exhibitor and don't own an AVSA Handbook For Growers, Exhibitors, and Judges, get one. Study its contents, along with carefully reading your show schedule, and a lot of mistakes will be avoided. Take care of yourself and your plants during the hot weather.



A Family Portrait



Georgene Albrecht
101 Oak Heights Drive
Oakdale, PA 15071
email: georgena@verizon.net

Our featured gesneriad is a beauty, *Kohleria* (koh-LEE-ee-ah) 'Jester'. It is hybridized by Patrick Worley and dated 1982 in the register. Foliage is a rich, black-green that likes lots of light so it is placed in the center of my fluorescent tubes. There are so many hairs that it looks like a fine velveteen. Blooms have a base color of yellow, but an over color of red and violet-red, making them look mostly red with spots and streaks. They have great substance and last for weeks. There are many buds per leaf node, too.

Propagules cover the surface of the four-inch tub. I do give it extra phosphorus to produce the intense coloration. She likes even moisture and 75 to 80 degree temperatures. My kohlerias did not bloom well and, as with any plant that doesn't bloom, it did not have enough light and fertilizer. Placing it in a south window would be ideal. I try never to let them go to rest because of the trouble in reviving them. It is so happy that it will constantly send up new growth from the base of the larger growths. This one is a compact grower, but it still needs to be staked because of the heavy bloom count. I use a piece of florists' wire to prop it up.

POUCHEE

Streptocarpus 'Pouchee' from Lyndon Lyon Greenhouses is one of the most prolific bloomers I have seen. It is in constant bloom so long as you give it fresh soil about every three or four months. The color of bloom is just magnificent light and dark red. Paul Sorano does a fantastic job introducing truly unique hybrids. Keep up the good work.

PAT'S BEAUTIES

Pat Hancock's gorgeous hybrids continue to impress me. *Saintpaulia* 'Buckeye Celebration' is absolutely breathtaking



Kohleria 'Jester'

with huge light purple stars having streaks and spots of darker purple and wine fantasy with the dark edge.

Combine this with that handsome cream variegated foliage and you have got a knock-out. I have noticed that her plants need less light than most variegated foliage mostly because the green in the leaf is very dark and can work hard to produce what is necessary.

S. 'Buckeye Concerto' has a bright, iridescent pansy bloom with bright raspberry-purple edges on pink backgrounds. The variegated foliage is a perfect background. Yum. Many people think that *S.* 'Buckeye Damask Rose' is her best, and it may well be. The huge stars of ruffled rose shaded from rose to pink, and even an almost white in cool temperatures, make a winning combination. There is pink in the variegation when grown warm.

ENGLISH STYLE

Visiting the gift shops of National Trusts of the UK, I noticed a nice hand-book about African violets by Joan Hill and Gwen Goodship. I had to have it. It is very concise, well written, and beautifully illustrated. I especially loved the list of plants. *S.* 'Dumplin' has been a favorite for many years. Hybridized by the Swifts many years ago, it has remained on many lists as a favorite show and collect variety. The flowers are a two-tone pink on plain, medium green foliage. It may sound plain, but it is very special and the blooms are large and long-lasting. If you have never grown it, try it. I did see many African violets over there, but it was record heat and most places did not have air conditioning because they rarely need it. Everything suffered, including the violets. The roses were the best imaginable. They take floriculture so seriously. It's wonderful. There is good information in the handbook worth a look anytime.

DISTRESS CALL

A lady named Tracey called me for urgent help. Her two-foot African violet had collapsed rapidly after she cleaned and repotted it in the usual reservoir-osmosis pot. She said she added the two drops of fertilizer as usual in the water. In a short time the plant collapsed. It sounded like root or stem-crown rot. I asked her if anything had changed and she said she used Scott's Plus potting soil. That was the answer. This soil has water retaining polymers and fertilizer. So, she had over-fertilized it and the water polymers had absorbed all the water they could and suffocated the root system. Polymers can never be used in a self-watering container. They will grow to hold water as long as it is available.

I told her to remove the soil, wash the root system with tepid water and wrap it in barely moist, whole sphagnum

moss, then enclose it in a plastic bag out of bright sun. We sure hope it developed a new root system before aborting lots of leaves. She said that the soil ball smelled awful so the rot was well established. I almost cried with her.

I don't want any of you to think Scott's Soil Plus is a bad product; it is wonderful when used in the correct manner.

CUP POTS

Fabri-Kal, a company in Kalamazoo, MI makes a fabulous RK 3.5 oz. plastic cup that is perfect for mini African violets and sinningias. The base is wide so it is rather "squatty" and doesn't tip over easily. A package of fifty is available at my local dollar store for just a buck, and what a buy. I simply take scissors and cut the edge off in two places on the bottom for drainage.

VIOLETS ARE RED, BLUE, OR WHATEVER

by Steve Covolo • Chicago, IL

Do you go out and purchase a red car when you prefer the color blue? Our African violet hobby offers us many colors on the color wheel. These colors come in many shades, patterns, and blossom styles. If you are going to grow violets successfully - grow what you like! The plants you enjoy the most are the ones you'll take care of first. If red is your chosen color, I'd be willing to bet the solid whites don't look as good to you as your favorite red cultivars.

Flower color is not the only way to select your violets. Leaf types vary greatly too. Select the types that are most appealing to your eyes. Everyone seems to enjoy the variegates. These beauties could be for you, too. Why bother growing a dark green standard when you prefer a medium

green variegated standard?

Foliage style is another factor in selecting the cultivar you like. Do you enjoy wavy, pointed or round foliage? Use your preferences as a tool in growing your plants.

Size is always a determining factor in plant selection. Where you grow your plants will always have an effect on whether you'll enjoy standards, small ones, or trailers in all sizes.

One final thought on growing what you like is that you are only limited to your own personal taste. Now that can change at anytime, but human nature dictates that we will care for our favorites first. If you like them all - chances are you'll have a lot of plants to care for!

UNUSUAL CONTAINERS

by Linda Golubski • Blue Springs, MO

Why do we have unusual containers classes in AVSA judged shows? That's a good question! The purpose of an unusual container is to promote the decorative use of African violets in the home or office.

Your first consideration is to select an appropriate container that will accentuate your room décor, giving consideration to color and the space you have to fill.

Next, select a violet that will compliment the container (either single crowned or trailer). Make sure the plant is in proportion to your planter. You wouldn't want a miniature violet in a 10" opening.

Now, if you want to exhibit and "win" the unusual container class, you must choose a good plant. Make sure it has good symmetry or form (if it's a trailer) and plenty of fresh

blossoms. Don't just put a "leftover" or "not good enough" for a color class plant in your container.

Try an unusual container, but do remember that your violet must be planted in the container.

A NOTE TO JUDGES: I remember a particular exhibit in this class that was given a red ribbon because the judges said the container was "inappropriate". Let's think this one through. The container was a shiny gold, old-fashioned commode with a lovely, symmetrical, violet that was full of bloom. Who's to say this was not "appropriate"? The exhibitor was very upset. First of all, in a bathroom, this would be an attractive accent, but for this exhibitor the living room would also be appropriate. You see this exhibitor is a Master Plumber!

Registration Report



Janice Bruns
1220 Stratford Lane
Hanover Park, IL 60133
email: janice@qwip.net

A name reservation costs \$1.00 and is valid for two years, after which time it may be extended two years for an additional \$1.00. Registration of the plant is \$5.00 unless completed within the reservation period, in which case the balance is then \$4.00. Please make check payable to AVSA.

Dolores Harrington - Fridley, MN

***Sara June** (9305) 2/3/04 (D. Harrington) Semidouble-double two-tone pink ruffled star/variable burgundy-tipped top petals. **Variegated** dark green and cream, heart-shaped, serrated/red back. **Standard**

Hortense Pittman - Celina, TX

***Apollo Dream** (9306) 2/14/04 (H. Pittman) Semidouble lavender star. Medium green, plain. **Semiminiature**

***Black Jewel** (9307) 2/14/04 (H. Pittman) Semidouble dark burgundy pansy. **Variegated** dark green and white, plain. **Semiminiature**

***Carnival Kid** (9308) 2/14/04 (H. Pittman) Semidouble-double dark purple pansy. **Variegated** dark green and white, plain, pointed. **Semiminiature**

***Cool Clouds** (9309) 2/14/04 (H. Pittman) Single-semidouble white to light blue-blushed pansy. Light green, plain, pointed. **Semiminiature**

***Country Angel** (9310) 2/14/04 (H. Pittman) Semidouble white and pink pansy. **Crown variegated** green and gold, plain. **Miniature**

***Country Doll** (9311) 2/14/04 (H. Pittman) Semidouble wine pansy. **Variegated** dark green and white, plain. **Miniature**

***Country Glow** (9312) 2/14/04 (H. Pittman) Double bright pink frilled. **Variegated** green and gold, plain, ovate. **Semiminiature**

***Country Gypsy** (9313) 2/14/04 (H. Pittman) Semidouble fuchsia frilled pansy. **Crown variegated** green and gold, wavy. **Semiminiature**

***Country Spangle** (9314) 2/14/04 (H. Pittman) Semidouble-double lavender/purple fantasy. **Crown variegated** green and gold, plain, ovate. **Semiminiature**

***Fancy Fun** (9315) 2/14/04 (H. Pittman) Single pink stick-tite pansy. **Variegated** green and white, plain, pointed. **Semiminiature**

***Teen Wine** (9316) 2/14/04 (H. Pittman) Semidouble purple pansy. **Variegated** dark green and white, plain, pointed. **Semiminiature**

Pat Hancock - Middletown, OH

***Buckeye Country Lilacs** (9317) 2/19/04 (P. Hancock) Semidouble two-tone lavender ruffled pansy/darker eye. **Variegated** dark green, pink and cream, pointed, quilted, serrated. **Large**

***Buckeye Electric Dream** (9318) 2/19/04 (P. Hancock) Semidouble lavender-pink star/purple and pink fantasy. **Variegated** dark green, pink and cream, plain, glossy. **Large**

Richard Follett - Strasburg, VA

***Minstrel's Mary Ruth** (9319) 2/26/04 (R. Follett) Single lavender-pink pansy/purple fantasy. Dark green, pointed, quilted, serrated/red back. **Standard trailer**

Linda Welchel - San Antonio, TX

***Forever Bette** (9320) 3/11/04 (L. Welchel) Semidouble medium-dark purple/light green edge. **Variegated** dark green and cream, heart-shaped, quilted, scalloped/red back. **Large**

Yvonne Lambert - Tottenham, Ontario, Canada

***Ode to Grace** (9321) 3/15/04 (Y. Lambert) Single-semidouble bright pink/white frilled edge. Medium green, plain. **Semiminiature**

Janet Stromborg – Denmark, WI

***Allegro Meadow Rue** (9322) 3/22/04 (J. Stromborg) Single-semidouble white pansy/variable blue-violet eye, rays and edge. Light green, heart-shaped, wavy, serrated. **Standard**

***Allegro Prairie Rose** (9323) 3/22/04 (J. Stromborg) Single-semidouble pink ruffled pansy/red eye, variable red rays. Dark green, heart-shaped, wavy, serrated/red back. **Standard**

***Allegro Sundae Eclipse** (9324) 3/22/04 (J. Stromborg) Single-semidouble chimera pink ruffled pansy/white stripe, purple fantasy. Medium green, heart-shaped, wavy, serrated. **Standard**

Greta Durand – Pointe Claire, Quebec, Canada

***Good Vibes** (9325) 3/31/04 (G. Durand) Single two-tone

fuchsia star. **Variegated** medium green and cream, plain, ovate. **Standard**

***Lavender Luv** (9326) 3/31/04 (G. Durand) Single-semidouble bright lavender large star. Medium green, plain, heart-shaped/red back. **Large**

***Plumtree** (9327) 3/31/04 (G. Durand) Single bright magenta ruffled star. **Variegated** medium green and cream, plain. **Standard**

***Power Pak** (9328) 3/31/04 (G. Durand) Single-semidouble magenta large star/thin white edge. Medium green, plain, heart-shaped/red back. **Large**

REGISTRATION CHANGE

The following blossom description has been changed at the request of the hybridizer (changes in italics):

Allegro Darcy Farrow (8856) Single chimera *pale red-violet pansy/white stripe, variable blue fantasy*; notched top petals.



AFFILIATE UPDATE

Bev Promersberger
Affiliate Committee

7992 Otis Way

Pensacola, FL 32506

Promers22@hotmail.com

Welcome to a new affiliate in Florida:

Caribbean Basin African Violet and Gesneriad Society

President: Allan L. Mink

430 E Dayton Circle

Fort Lauderdale, FL 33312-1917

(954) 587-0392

minkflowers@aol.com

Do you live in Northwestern Iowa, Northeastern Nebraska, or Southeastern South Dakota? There is a club forming in the Siouxland area, Sioux City, IA. Since Sioux City is on the border of all three states, members from all three states are invited. We hope that any African violet growers in these areas will take advantage of the opportunity to join this group and help to get it started.

Contact: **Terri Post**

PO Box 3212

Sioux City, IA 51102

(712) 251-6503

postter@pionet.net

Thank You From Tucson

by Kathy Bell

I would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone who came to the AVSA Tucson Convention. It was wonderful

seeing so many violet people there. It really makes all the planning, work, and time we put into it worth it.

Thanks to all the clubs that made donations; you don't know how much these donations help make a convention.

Thank you Tucson African Violet Society members, Albuquerque Violet Club members, and Desert Sun African Violet Society members for helping plan and work the convention. And to those members who came to the convention and helped, it meant a lot. Of course, we can't forget our commercial growers. What would we do without them? And last but not least, I would like to thank AVSA for all the planning and help.

I hope I didn't leave anyone out. This thanks goes out to all of you.

One more item: if any of the judges' clerks did not get a thank you gift, please contact me, and I will send it to you. There was a bit of a mix up in this area.

Hope to see all of you in Ohio/Kentucky.



AVSA HONOR ROLL OF AFRICAN VIOLETS

Floyd Lawson
20917 Madrona Av
Torrance, CA 90503

1990

Boca Grande #5112 (S. Williams)
Emilie Savage #5445 (Eyerdom)
Frances Young #5890 (Pittman)
Hart's Snow White #5590 (A. Hart)
Melodie Kimi #8100 (Sunnyside/Levy)
Ming Blue #5823 (Eyerdom)
Pay Dirt #4988 (P. Tracey)
Wrangler's Jealous Heart #6225 (W. Smith)
Wrangler's Pink Patches #6230 (W. Smith)

1991

Mickey Mouse n/r (Inpijn)
Nortex's Snowfrill Haven #6045
(B. Johnson)
Nortex's Snowkist Haven #6046
(B. Johnson)
Optimara® Hawaii #6558 (Holtkamp)
Precious Pink #6025 (Pittman)
Snow Rose #5985 (Whitaker)

1992

Dancin' Trail #5565 (Sorano)
Falling Snow n/r (Tracey)
Fickle Flirt #6738 (Sorano)

1993

Little Pro #6637 (Pittman)

1994

Optimara® Rose Quartz #6969 (Holtkamp)

1995

There are no 1995 additions to the Honor
Roll of African Violets

1996

Tomahawk #7269 (K. Stork)
Irish Flirt #7577 (S. Sorano)

1997

Ode to Beauty #7677 (Cox/B. Johnson)
Picasso #6924 (M. Tremblay)

1998

Ness' Crinkle Blue #8136 (D. Ness)
International n/r (B. Johnson)

1999

Milky Way Trail #7469 (J. Stahl)
Ness' Satin Rose #8144 (D. Ness)

2000

Powwow #7708 (K. Stork)
Rob's Sticky Wicket #6467 (R. Robinson)

2001

Windy Day #7719 (Stork/Boone)

2002

There were no 2002 additions to the
Honor Roll of African Violets

2003

Rainbow's Quiet Riot (R. Wasmund)

To see the Honor Roll listings from 1960 - 1998, refer to pages 26 & 27 of the May/June 2000 AVM.
To be in the Honor Roll of African Violets, a variety must have appeared in the Best Varieties list for three consecutive years.
(Minor editorial changes have been made on some of the above cultivars for compliance with the current MVL)

Convention Show Awards

Thanks to the generosity of 137 members and affiliates, we had an outstanding award presentation at the 2004 AVSA show in Tucson. Two hundred fourteen cash awards were presented along with special rosettes, the Elmer and Fannie Hall engraved silver bowl, a violet trivet, and a special plaque for the Best New Introduction. We are quite fortunate to have three special collection classes in addition to the AVSA Collections. Holtkamp Greenhouses offers first, second, and third place cash awards to the Best Optimara/Rhapsodie Collections in both Amateur and Commercial horticulture, Rob and Olive Ma Robinson have awards for the Best and Second Best Robinson and/or Ma's collection, and Buckeye hybrids joined the awards list in 2004 with awards for Best and Second Best collection from Pat Hancock.

Award donations are now being accepted for the 2005 Show in Cincinnati. This is a way to be involved in the show; a way to offer encouragement and say thanks to those who

work hard to provide outstanding exhibits and designs. Please include the donor's name, a contact person if group or affiliate donation, and an address for correspondence. Also list any requests (memorials, Design Division, Commercial Division, Amateur Horticulture, Best in Class.) Undesignated awards are greatly appreciated. They can be used where necessary to insure even distribution of awards. The deadline to be included in the Awards Listing - Jan/Feb AVM is October 15, 2004. To be included in the Convention Souvenir Booklet, the deadline is February 15, 2005.

Please send your award donations to:
Sue Hoffmann, AVSA Awards Chairman
2809 Forest Hills Court • Virginia Beach, VA 23454-1256
susan.hoffmann@juno.com
Checks should be made payable
(in U.S. funds) to "AVSA Awards."

Transplant Seedlings Often and Remove Cotyledons

Story and photos by Dale Martens

I've been a huge promoter of transplanting gesneriad seedlings often. The reason I am writing about this is because I'll get letters saying a person has sown seed, but after a month the seedlings stop growing. I had one person tell me his seedlings are still in the seedling container after three months, and he's still waiting for them to grow. Well, I usually write that unless the seedlings receive regular feedings of fertilizer and/or are transplanted and given regular feedings, they're not going to grow properly.



In the photo above, we see sinningias that are the same age. I used *Sinningia guttata* as the seed parent. The plant on the left got my 'every-two-weeks-for-the-first-8-weeks' transplanting method, including the removal of the cotyledon leaves when the seedlings were six to seven weeks of age. The seedlings on the right in my typical seedling container have not received any transplanting. The container normally has a lid to cover the seedlings, and the seedlings receive occasional misting to keep them wet. The larger plant came from this very seedling container. All the 'sinns' you see are siblings and are the same age, about three months old.

It was quite by accident that I discovered that *Sinningia* seedlings double their size in less than two weeks if I remove their cotyledons and the lowest two leaves when they are about six weeks old. Keep in mind that I've transplanted them at least twice before this 6th week of life. I lift the seedlings up and then down in another area of the pot, and they reward me by growing quickly. At the 6th week of life, I remove the cotyledons and the first set of leaves. I pot them deep into the soil up to the next set of leaves. I know this works because I've been doing it for some time now. I challenge people to do this with *Sinningia* or *episcias*... only do a couple of seedlings and don't do the rest of the siblings. You'll see!

Those who grow gesneriads from seed know that you can transplant half the seedlings, and then close the container on those that didn't get transplanted. Those that didn't get transplanted eventually grow very little over time.



The *Episcia* 'Suomi' seedlings shown in the second photograph are siblings and are all the same age. They all came from the seedling pot in the middle. You can see that the container on the far right has *Episcia* seedlings with the cotyledons still attached. Note the cotyledons are more yellowish/paler color (arrow). I wanted to illustrate what a difference it makes in the rate of growth when the cotyledons are removed, so for the pot of seedlings on the far right, I didn't remove the cotyledons. However, they are on wick watering and receive fertilizer regularly. The two pots on the left had their cotyledons removed and they were transplanted at that time. It truly makes a difference in growth rate to simultaneously remove those cotyledons and transplant the seedlings.

For *Streptocarpus*, I don't cut anything off until the strep seedling is two and one half inches long. Then I cut the top one third of the longest leaf. This also promotes quick growth as well as secondary leaves.

Why am I in such a hurry? Well, I count on my rhizomatous plants to go dormant so I have room on my plant stands to grow out seedlings. That rhizome dormancy is from about mid-October to the beginning of March. I sow seed mid-September. By the time the rhizomes need potting, I have had four and one half to five months to grow and flower the new seedlings (mostly sinningias, *Streptocarpus*, and recently *episcias*). I decorate the compost pile with 90% of the seedlings, but the 'keepers' get to grow another year so I can see their maximum potential.

Seeing the first flower on a seedling is like opening a gift!

Dale Martens is a regular contributor to the internet list, Gesneriphiles, and is a Co-Editor of the Gesneriad Hybridizers Association newsletter, Crosswords.

Cotyledons or 'seed leaves' are food-storage structures. They are attached to and are part of the seed embryo. The two cotyledon leaves are the first to emerge from germinated seeds, but rather than continuing to grow, they progressively shrink as stored foods are transferred to the seedling.

From African Violet & Gesneriad News

AVSA Booster Fund

Shirley Berger • 4343 Schumacher Rd-196E • Sebring, FL 33872
CONTRIBUTIONS: February 1, 2004 - March 31, 2004

Ethel Spurlin, Mililani, HI. \$10.00	Janice Bruns, Hanover Park, IL. \$10.00	Capital City AVS, Sacramento, CA. \$25.00
John B. Warren, Newburgh, NY 5.00	Martin S. Wright, Williamsville, NY. 25.00	Doris A. Jolley, Batesville, MS 5.00
Dolores Harrington, Fridley, MN. 5.00	Sweet Water AVS, East Islip, NY. 25.00	Tustana AVS, Anaheim, CA 10.00
Ventura County AVS, Ojai, CA 10.00	<i>In memory of Leila Egenites</i>	Judy Walton, Allen Park, MI 5.00
Metropolitan Regional Council of AV Judges,	AV Club of Greater Atlanta, Atlanta, GA 25.00	Oshkosh Violet Society, Omro, WI. 10.00
East Newport, NY. 1.00	<i>In memory of Helen Beverly Moffatt</i>	Amethyst AV Club, Saint Charles, MO. 10.00
Edward W. Buschke, Morris Plains, NJ 10.00	Jackie and Maurice Jones, Durant, IA 100.00	Old Dominion AVS of Northern Virginia,
Kay C. Schroeder Clarksburg, MD 10.00	Mid-Polk AVS, Winter Haven, FL 10.00	Sterling, VA 35.00
Charlotte Wolfe, Ann Arbor, MI 10.00	<i>In memory of Eva Gantt,</i>	<i>In memory of Kathryn "Kitty" Carroll</i>
Walther H. Ott, Bridgewater, NJ 25.00	<i>member Anna Coley's mother</i>	Columbus AVS, Columbus, OH 25.00
Ralph A. Mancusi, Orange Park, FL 5.00	Memphis AVS, Memphis, TN 20.00	<i>In memory of Lois Holderle</i>
Donalda Fergusen, Montgomery, AL. 5.00	<i>In memory of Helen Stauffer, member,</i>	Columbus AVS, Columbus, OH 25.00
Meredith Roe, Madison, WI 5.00	<i>friend, senior judge, who generously shared</i>	<i>In memory of Mae Harnett</i>
Eleanor Mattaliano, Tinton Falls, NJ 10.00	<i>her knowledge of African violets</i>	Memphis AVS, Bartlett, TN. 20.00
Nancy N. Yano, Honolulu, HI. 10.00	Metropolitan St. Louis AV Council,	<i>In memory of Mrs. Lee Smith</i>
Helen Handwerk, Lakewood, CO 10.00	St. Louis, MO 15.00	
D. K. Yeager, Helena, MT. 5.00	Fred Hill, Columbus, NJ 5.00	
Anita E. Rudolph, Melville, NY. 5.00	Onalee H. McEven, Houston, TX 5.00	
Beverly Volk, Allentown, PA 2.50	Patricia C. Castiglione, Lake Dallas, TX 5.00	
Frances Ratte, Black Hawk, CO 10.00	Tristate AV Council, Lafayette, NJ 20.00	
Lynn D. Campo, Hamden, CT. 10.00	Mary Straka, Tampa, FL 5.00	
Robert Kurzynski, Clifton, NJ 5.00	Cynthia Forbes De Correa,	
AVS of Minnesota, Minneapolis, MN. 15.00	Pasque Le Fleure, Panama 20.00	

TOTAL: \$643.50

Margaret Scott AVS, Champaign-Urbana, IL,
 was mistakenly listed as the Elizabeth Scott
 AVS, with their donation in memory of
 founding member Eileen Peer.



BEST VARIETY LIST

There is still time to send your choices for year 2004

The Honor Roll of African Violets in this issue of the African Violet Magazine is made up of African violets which growers have consistently chosen as their favorites. After a variety appears on the Best Variety List for three consecutive years, it is elevated to the Honor Roll of African Violets.

The Best Variety List, published in our November/December edition, is a list made up from the choices AVSA members submitted each year. This Best Variety List is *your* list, those plants which have been the best for *you*.

Here is your opportunity to make your voice heard. Which are your favorites that you would encourage others to buy and grow?

You still have time to submit your, or your club's, list by July 31, 2004. Every member of AVSA is encouraged to take the time to make a list of up to twenty-five of your favorite plants. You may list fewer, especially if you are a new grower.

The list may be sent singly, or as a part of the AVSA affiliate club's summary.

IMPORTANT: If you make only one list for the club, please list every plant voted on and how many votes each received. Also, enclose the total number of members voting, as well as the name of the affiliate club.

The more votes, the better the List. Send your choices now, and then watch the November/December African Violet Magazine for the results.

Send your votes to:

Floyd Lawson

20719 Madrona Ave.

Torrance, CA 90503 U.S.A.

or by e-mail to:

floydll@earthlink.net by July 31, 2004



What's Missing From This Picture?

Chances are, few of today's garden centers know as much about growing African Violets as you do. No doubt, this explains why so many knowledgeable Violet growers have a hard time finding the products they need. For anyone who knows what it takes to grow beautiful, full-blooming African Violets, it can be like putting together a puzzle, only to find there's a piece missing. We know the feeling. That's why we started the Selective Gardener, a plant care supplier that specializes in products for African Violets.

Everything You Need to Grow Beautiful, Full-Blooming African Violets

The Selective Gardener makes it easy to get the products you need. As a plant care supplier that specializes in African Violets, the Selective Gardener carries a full line of plant care products with brand names like Optimara.

- Fully-dissolving, urea-free fertilizers
- Self-watering devices such as the Watermaid and the new, spill-proof Optimara WaterShip
- Ultralight, pH-balanced potting media
- Pots, trays and plant covers
- Show accessories and more

From Leaf Cuttings to Finished Violets

In addition to plant care products, the Selective Gardener offers African Violets in several pot sizes, including genuine Miniatures. You can also order leaf cuttings from all of the available Optimara and Rhapsodie varieties.

A Complete African Violet Resource

The Selective Gardener is a complete African Violet resource. Send for the Selective Gardener catalog, and you will find offers for plant care products, Violets and leaf cuttings, even books and posters. Or go online, and you will find even more. At the Selective Gardener's internet site (<http://www.selectivegardener.com>), you will have access to a number of resources not available anywhere else.

- Growing tips from the world famous Holtkamp Greenhouses
- Complete interactive Violet identification guide
- Links to other useful sites such as Doctor Optimara, a symptom-based, interactive guide for diagnosing pests and pathogens
- Reviews of African Violet products

(Tip: If you do not have access to the internet, try your public library. Many libraries, now, provide computers for public use, as well as helpful assistance for anyone wanting to go online.)

The Selective Gardener Catalog

To receive the Selective Gardener catalog, send \$1 (which will be credited to your first order) with your name and address to:

The Selective Gardener
6011 Martingale Lane
Brentwood, TN 37027

Or visit us online at
<http://www.selectivegardener.com>.





John Carter



Cindy Baker



Charles Auman



Linda Owens



Anita Rudolph and Lois Szostak



Paul Sorano



Nancy Rentfro



Spence and Florence Naylor



Paul and Judy Kroll



Vladimir Kalgin and Jack Wilson



Char and Bob Ernstein



Harry Weber and Elmer Godeny



Ralph and Olive Ma Robinson

A Fiestra of Violets



Moleen Kanewischer, Winston and Laurel Goretsky



L-R: Rose Garcia, Esther Hopkins, Dorothy Greer, Carolyn Anderson. Front: Adele Bunch



Ruth Rumsey and Bill Price



Sandy Sanders



L-R: Sharon Holtzman, Mary Martin, Thelma Miller, and Penny Wichman



Susan Hapner and Nancy Amelung



Jan Davidson



Barbara Kozlowski



Tom DeRousse and Ruth Connors



Joy Tallant



Agatha Garrison



Laurel Goretsky and Reuben Innis



Susan Merski and Jenny Daugereau



Claire D'Allessandro, Linda Golubski, and Kazuo Horikishi



Ron Ennis and Ann Callaghan



Sylvia Leeds



Kent Storr



AVSA President Janet Riemer and Bill Foster

Showcase

Opera's Paolo

Exhibited by: **Paul Kroll**

Hybridized by: **D. Burdick**

Standard



Photo Credit: **Winston J. Goretsky**

Shirl's Senior Moment

Exhibited by: **Olive Ma Robinson**

Hybridized by: **S. Sanders**

Semiminiature



Photo Credit: **Winston J. Goretsky**



Photo Credit: Winston J. Goretsky

Rob's Monkeyshines

Second Best African Violet in Show

Best Semiminiature

Best Fantasy

From Best Robinson Collection

2004 AVSA National Show

*Exhibited by: **Kathy Lahti***

“And the winners are ...”



Mary J. Corondan
7205 Dillon Court
Plano, TX 75024

ALPHA AVS, FIRST AVS OF DALLAS, FIRST NIGHTER AVS, TX: Winners: Best AVSA Mini/Semi Collection: Red Bandito, Thunder Surprise, Cool Blue; Best in Show/Best Miniature: Pink Puff, **Ray Pittman**. 2nd Best AVSA Mini/Semi Collection: Tiptop, White Dew, Red Bandito; Best Semiminiature: Red Bandito; Horticulture Sweepstakes, **Hortense Pittman**. Best Standard: Phantom Flash, **William Sugg**. Best Trailer: Rob's Wagga Wagga, **Sylvia Leeds**. Best Species: *Saintpaulia ionantha*, **Bill Foster**. Best Gesneriad: *Episcia* 'Kee Wee'; Best Design, **Meredith Hall**. Design Sweepstakes, **Nadine Tichy**.

AVC OF GREATER KANSAS CITY, MO: Winners: Best AVSA Standard Collection: Party Parasol, Harbor Blue, Ness' Bangle Blue, **Fred Inbody**. Best AVSA Mini/Semi Collection: Rob's Heat Wave, Little Pro, Optimara Little Hopi; Best in Show/Best Standard: Nancy Reagan; Best Miniature: Rob's Love Bite; Best Trailer: Linda Darnell; Horticulture Sweepstakes, **Pat Inbody**. Best Semiminiature: Rob's Boogie Woogie, **Freda Brooks**. Best species: *Saintpaulia grandifolia*, **Sue Hill**. Best Gesneriad: *Nematanthus* 'Tropicana', **Tricia Taylor**. Best Design: Design Sweepstakes, **Marsha Loveland**.

FIRST AVS OF DENTON, TX – Winners: Best AVSA Standard Collection: Marching Band, Fredette's Strawberry Ripples, Special Treat; Best Standard: Lone Star Twilight, **Richard Nicholas**. Best in Show/Best Trailer: Snowy Trail; Best Miniature: Orchard's Bumble Magnet; Best Gesneriad: *Streptocarpus* 'Bristol's Popsicle'; Horticulture Sweepstakes, **Eunice Curry**. Best Semiminiature: Wee Hummer, **Katherine Perry**. Best Species: *Saintpaulia grandifolia* #299; Design Sweepstakes, **Janet Castiglione**. Best Design, **Anne Nicholas**.

AVS OF GREATER TULSA, OK – Winners: Best AVSA Standard Collection: Apache Heartbeat, Rodeo Polka, Wrangler's Branding Time; Best AVSA Mini/Semi Collection: Rob's Little Pueblo, Rob's Antique Rose, Slow Dancin'; Best Trailer: Tiny Wood Trail; Best Gesneriad: *Streptocarpus* 'Janus'; Horticulture Sweepstakes, **Judith Carter**. Best in

Show/Best Semiminiature: Christening Gown; Best Miniature: Rob's Midnite Madness; Design Sweepstakes, **Pat Sutton**. Best Standard: Graffiti, **Shirley Lumpkin**. Best Design, **Jeanne Cotten**.

CENTRAL CALIFORNIA AVS, CA – Winners: Best AVSA Standard Collection: Picasso, Fisherman's Paradise, Ness' Viking Maiden, **Bob Russell**. Best in Show/Best Standard: Picasso; Best Miniature: Rob's June Bug, **Kristi Cole**. Best Semiminiature: Tomboy Blue; Best Design; Design Sweepstakes, **Lola Sutherland**. Best Trailer: Milky Way Trail; Horticulture Sweepstakes, **Helen Sepe**. Best Species: *Saintpaulia* Robertson. Best Gesneriad: *Episcia* 'Spearmint', **Sue Haffner**.

CORPUS CHRISTI AVS, TX – Winners: Best AVSA Standard Collection: Picasso, Kiss of Fire, Impostor, **Elizabeth Riggle**. 2nd Best AVSA Standard Collection: Rebel's Restless Heart, Picasso, Rebel's Corabella; Best AVSA Mini/Semi Collection: Shy Blue, Lyon's June Bug, Rebel's Meg; Best Semiminiature: Lyon's June Bug; Best Trailer: Deer Trail; Best Gesneriad: *Streptocarpus* 'Mom's Plant'; Horticulture Sweepstakes, **Majorie Bullard**. Best in Show/Best Standard: Frozen in Time; Best Miniature: Optimara Rose Quartz, **Virginia Thompson**. Best Design; Design Sweepstakes, **Sarah Stensland**.

FIRST AUSTIN AVS, TX – Winners: Best AVSA Standard Collection: *Saintpaulia nitida*, *Saintpaulia pendula* var. *kizarae*, *Saintpaulia rupicola*; Best AVSA Mini/Semi Collection: Beginner's Luck, Rob's Slap Happy; Rob's Fuddy Duddy; Best Semiminiature: Rob's Slap Happy, **Jeannette Pursley**. 2nd Best AVSA Mini/Semi Collection: Texas Space Dust, Rob's Love Bite, Everdina; Best Miniature: Texas Space Dust; Best Trailer: Rob's Sticky Wicket; Horticulture Sweepstakes, **Penny Smith-Kerker**. Best in Show/Best Standard: Frozen In Time, **Dolores Gibbs**. Best Species: *Saintpaulia pendula* var. *kizarae*; Best Gesneriad: *Streptocarpus* 'Mom's Plant'; Design Sweepstakes, **Debra Mischel**. Best Design, **Pat Freeman**.

FIRST LAKELAND AVS, FL – Winners: Best AVSA Standard Collection: Wrangler's Dixie Celebration, Rhapsodie Clementine, Fisherman's Paradise, **Marvin Nester**. 2nd Best AVSA Standard Collection: Bishop, Optimara Monet, Ness' Viking Maiden; 2nd Best AVSA Mini/Semi Collection: Optimara Rose Quartz, Optimara Little Amethyst, Ness' Angel Babe; Best Miniature: Ness' Angel Babe; Horticulture Sweepstakes; Design Sweepstakes, **Eryth Hendershot**. Best AVSA Mini/Semi Collection: Teen Thunder, Rob's Pink Puff, Rob's Outer Orbit; Best in Show/Best Standard: Tiger; Best Semiminiature: Rob's Outer Orbit; Best Species: *Saintpaulia* House of Amani; Best Gesneriad: *Petrocosmea kerrii*, **Kelly Patton**. Best Trailer: Cherokee Trail, **Dee Vincent**. Best Design, **Mary Jane DiLorenzo**.

MAGIC KNIGHT AVS, TX – Winners: Best AVSA Standard Collection: Mary Craig, Something Special, The King; Best in Show: Tiger, **Steven Spachek**. 2nd Best AVSA Standard Collection: Cajun Heritage, Fisherman's Paradise, Wisteria, **Bill Johnson**. Best Mini/Semi Collection: Honey Blue Ace, Texas Space Dust, Rob's June Bug; Best Semiminiature: Optimara Little Ottawa; Best Miniature: Rob's Twinkle Pink; Best Trailer: Kissaway Trail; Horticulture Sweepstakes, **Ken Froboese**. 2nd Best Mini/Semi Collection: Plumberry Glow, Ness' Satin Rose, Optimara Little Ottawa, **Shirley Sanders**. Best Gesneriad: *Streptocarpus* 'Magnetosphere', **Janey Reddell**. Best Design, **Dea Johnson**. Design Sweepstakes, **Jane Rexilius**.

MOONLIGHT AVS, TX – Winners: Best AVSA Mini/Semi Collection: Thunder Surprise, Sassy Angel, Optimara Little Blackfoot, **Bonnie Harris**. 2nd Best AVSA Mini/Semi Collection: Rob's Dust Storm, Rob's Red Rooster, Optimara Little Navajo; Best Miniature: Twinkle Toes; Horticulture Sweepstakes, **Mural Fort**. Best in Show/Best Standard: Chinook Wind; Best Semiminiature: Sassy Angel, **Peggy Fergon**. Best Species: *Saintpaulia ionantha*; Best Design; Design Sweepstakes, **Nadine Tichy**. Best Gesneriad: *Chirita tamiana*, **Robert Shearer**.

NORTH STAR AV COUNCIL, MN – Winners: Best AVSA Standard Collection: Graffiti; Ness' Candy Pink; B-Man's Caltanissetta; Best Trailer: Pixie Pink; Best Gesneriad: *Columnnea*

'Early Bird', **Carol Semrau**. 2nd Best AVSA Standard Collection: Optimara Monet, Rebel's Night Breezes, Victorian Flirt; Best in Show/Best Standard: Ness' Peppermint Stick, Horticulture Sweepstakes, **Gail Podany**. Best AVSA Mini/Semi Collection: Mini Papa, Rob's Swizzle Stick, Snuggles Little Dreamer; Best Miniature: Rob's Jitterbug; Best Species: *Saintpaulia grandifolia*; Best Design; Design Sweepstakes, **Barbara Werness**. 2nd Best AVSA Mini/Semi Collection: Optimara Little Aztec, Rob's Scooter, Irish Angel, **Paul Hussa**. Best Semiminiature: Ness' Crinkle Blue, **Sandy Officer**.

TAMPA AVS, FL – Winners: Best AVSA Standard Collection: Optimara Fiji, Peach Puff, L'Ambassadeur; Best Standard: L'Ambassadeur, **Mina Menish**. 2nd Best AVSA Standard Collection: Ozio, Frozen in Time, Rebel's Splatter Kake; 2nd Best AVSA Mini/Semi Collection: Honey Pink Jewel, Persian Lace, Rob's Cool Fruit; Horticulture Sweepstakes, **Nancy Kast**. Best AVSA Mini/Semi Collection: Rob's Antique Rose, Rob's Sarsparilla, Rob's Cool Fruit; Best in Show/Best Trailer: Rob's Gundaroo; Best Semiminiature: Rob's Antique Rose; Best Miniature: Frosted Denim, **Jay Sespico**. Best Gesneriad: *Episcia* 'Unpredictable Valley', **Lucille Chester**. Best Design, **Mary Lou Harden**. Design Sweepstakes, **Lynne Wilson**.

UNION COUNTY AVS , NJ – Winners: Best AVSA Mini/Semi Collection: Rob's Fuddy Duddy, Rob's Heat Wave, Little Pro; Best in Show/Best Semiminiature: Rob's Fuddy Duddy; Horticulture Sweepstakes, **Muriel Lawrence**. Best Standard: Ness' Blueberry Puff; Best Species: *Saintpaulia tongwensis*; Best Gesneriad: *Streptocarpus* 'Gator's Tail'; Best Design, **Gail Gray**. Design Sweepstakes, **Janet Riemer**.

UPPER PINELLAS AVS, FL – Winners: Best AVSA Standard Collection: Lyon's Fortune Teller, Fisher's Leone, Tiger; Best AVSA Mini/Semi Collection: Optimara Little Ottawa, Ness' Cranberry Swirl, Rob's Mister Sneezy; Best in Show/Best Standard: Tiger; Best Trailer: North Star Trail; Best Species: *Saintpaulia velutina*; Best Design; Horticulture Sweepstakes; Design Sweepstakes, **Phyllis King**. 2nd Best AVSA Standard Collection: Suncoast Lavender Silk, Georgia Lover; Fisherman's Paradise, **Mary Helen Maran**. Best Gesneriad: *Streptocarpus* 'Stained Glass', **Charlene Boses**.

Correction: March/April '04 AVM. In the list of winners for the **New York State AVS, NY**, it should read:

2nd Best AVSA Standard Collection: *Saintpaulia ionantha*, *Saintpaulia orbicularis*, *Saintpaulia grandifolia* #299; Best in Show/Best Standard: Neptune; Best Species: *Saintpaulia* House of Amani; Best Gesneriad: *Petrocosmea bagoniifolia*; Horticulture Sweepstakes; Design Sweepstakes, **Paul Kroll**.

Showcase

Irish Iridescence

2004 New Introduction

Hybridized by:

Lyndon Lyon Greenhouses

Standard



Photo Credit: Winston J. Goretsky

Optimara Ontario

Exhibited by: Pat Richards

Hybridized by: Holtkamp

Standard



Photo Credit: Winston J. Goretsky



Photo Credit: Winston J. Goretsky

Rob's Outer Orbit

Second Best in Show

(Commercial)

*Exhibited & Hybridized by: **Ralph Robinson***

Semiminiature

Question Box



Sue Haffner
3015 Timmy Ave.
Clovis CA 93612
email: sueh@csufresno.edu

Imagine my surprise when I heard from AVSA President Janet Riemer, asking me if I would consider taking over for Dorothy Kosowsky as one of the Question Box columnists. This is a daunting challenge, as Dorothy, in addition to being an extremely knowledgeable and graceful writer, is also a champion grower of show plants. She has long promoted the hobby in California and the West, and we are all grateful for her efforts. Thank you, Dorothy!

By way of introduction, I have been a member of the Central California AVS for many years and have edited the club's monthly newsletter, *African Vio-let-ter*, for over twenty years. I also formerly co-edited *California Council News*, our statewide publication. My home is in the central San Joaquin Valley, an area of long, hot, dry summers and very hard, mineral-laden tap water. Growing African violets in this area can be a true test of your horticultural abilities. Our club usually has its annual show as early as possible (March) in order to beat the heat. So far this spring, we've had a long spell of unusually warm weather, including a record-breaking 100 degrees one day. I sure hope that doesn't presage an extra-long, hot summer!

QUESTION: *When I go to meetings of the local violet club, it seems like all they talk about is their show, and I feel like I'm being pressured into entering something. Don't get me wrong – I like the club and the members, and I feel I get good growing information (and, of course, plants and leaves) – but I really just want to enjoy my plants for their own sakes. They're not show-quality, anyway. I'm happy to help out at the show, usually working in the plant sale area, but am just not interested in competition. Am I wrong?*

ANSWER: No, of course you're not wrong. Obviously, you are a valuable member of your club, given your attendance and your willingness to help out with the show and

sale. Putting on a judged show requires a lot of work and dedication from club members; anyone who wants to help is valued. Your contribution is worthwhile, even if you are disinclined to be an exhibitor.

Competition isn't for everyone. I have known individuals who grew spectacular plants but who would never put them into competitive shows (where they would certainly have won blue ribbons) because of a bias against this kind of judging. You say your plants aren't of show-quality. I know how you feel: it took several years for me to get up enough courage to enter my club's show. And, then, I only did it through the "back door", so to speak, by entering my plants in dish gardens or terrariums. At the time, there were a number of champion growers in CCAVS whose plants were mind-boggling to me; there was no way I could compete with them in the Horticulture Division. However, I did manage to pick up a few ribbons in Design, so I was happy!

Growing for show or creating designs challenges the exhibitor to produce the best possible entry; it educates the public about African violets and promotes the hobby, as well as your local group. If you are not philosophically opposed to competition, why not consider trying a similar strategy? You will find that it can be a fun and certainly educational experience. Enter the Novice Division; the judges' comments on the entry tags will be instructive and encouraging. You will learn a lot.

QUESTION: *Everything I read about violet growing says that you shouldn't re-use potting soil when repotting your violets. Why not?*

ANSWER: The chemical composition of a potting mix changes with use. For instance, mixes tend to become more acidic over time. Also, fertilizer builds up in the mix, further modifying it. African violets are sensitive to this and will go into decline when the chemistry of the mix becomes unbal-

anced. Be careful when you repot that you keep old mix from contaminating the unused material. Some growers discard old mix, putting it out with the garbage. Others rake it into their outdoor flower beds.

Now, what if there are components of your mix that you would like to recycle, materials that are not easy to acquire, such as the large perlite or pumice? You could sieve the old mix, separating out the perlite, say, and pour boiling water through it, leaching it several times. You might cautiously reuse it, but only to repot a few plants, not your whole collection. I would keep an eye on those plants, though, to check that they are not showing symptoms of chemical imbalance in the mix. What if throwing out all that old soil offends your thrifty nature, and you can't deposit it in a flower bed? I have read the following recommended for pasteurizing used potting mix: put all the old mix in a black plastic garbage bag, make sure it's at least a bit moist, tie the bag closed, and put it out in the sun. In our area, at least, the soil will be baked in a matter of days. I wouldn't use this on my indoor plants, but it might be suitable for an outdoor planter, combined with some fresh planting mix.

QUESTION: *I am fairly new to trying to grow African violets and other gesneriads from seed. I've had mixed results – just enough to keep me trying – but find that I frequently have algae or moss growing in my seed pans, crowding out the little seedlings. What can I do about this?*

ANSWER: First, I want to congratulate you for trying to grow gesneriads from seed. It's an enjoyable and educational pastime, a great way to learn about our favorite plants, as well as a means to enlarge your plant collection. You no doubt know that you need to start with a pasteurized seeding mix, as well as a clean container. Growers use everything from recycled margarine tubs to regular pots, to the various modules created specifically for seed-growing. Whatever you use, it has to be clean and have drainage holes. You can create your own mix, either soil-less or with a packaged soil, or you can buy a product especially formulated for seeds. (Try to check out the consistency of such a product, though. Some are so fine as to be powdery.) You can bake or microwave your seeding mix as you do your regular potting mix. Fill the seed container, making sure to level the surface with something flat (I use the bottom of a small plastic pot to press down the mix a bit.)

Gesneriad seed is very fine, dust-like, and requires some care in handling. I crease a piece of white paper and open the seed pod or envelope over it. If the seed is in a plastic bag, some of it may cling to the sides so you may have to slit open the sides and brush the seeds out onto the paper. Tap the seeds into the crease in the paper and carefully deposit them over the surface of the mix. Water them in with a gentle mist of distilled water from a spray bottle. Cover the container with plastic wrap or a humidity dome of some sort and place it in

a well-lighted location. It's important that the seed mix not dry out, as that spells doom for the seedlings.

Now, as to your question about algae or moss: these contaminants will grow when conditions are favorable, when the temperature and light are suitable, and when the mix hasn't been adequately pasteurized. To make double-sure that my seeding mix is pasteurized, I pour boiling water through the containers as they sit in a tray, and let them stay in the run-off until they have cooled down and the mix is saturated. Then I plant the seeds, keeping the seed pans well-covered until germination is observed (at least several weeks.) When the seedlings have a second pair of leaves, it's time to crack open the cover to begin the process of acclimating the baby plants to the world. It is possible that airborne moss spores could land on the surface of the medium at this time. Be vigilant. Got algae? Well, maybe you didn't start off with everything (including the plant label) squeaky clean, but what to do now? Don't think you can spray something that will kill the algae but leave your seedlings undamaged. What kills the algae will kill the plantlets, too. More likely, you will have to prick out the seedlings into another container of seed mix, in order to keep them from being overwhelmed by the invading "green crud". You may have to try several times before you get this right, as gesneriad seedlings are very small. You might try using a magnifying device such as those marketed for people doing craft work to help you see what you're doing.

Good luck!

QUESTION: *I have been told that I need to make sure the fertilizer I use contains trace elements. What are trace elements?*

ANSWER: This question made me do some research! Trace elements are needed by our plants, in very small amounts, and some of them are washed out of the soil every time the plants are watered. They are the catalysts that speed up the plant chemistry and give vigorous growth, so it is important that they be replaced. Magnesium activates plant enzymes and produces protein. It is necessary for the production of chlorophyll. Iron also is important in the synthesis of chlorophyll and activates plant enzymes. You see "chelated" iron in plant stores. "Chelated" is the term for minerals that have the ability to pick up other minerals in the soil and carry them into the plant. Calcium is necessary to form proteins. Boron prevents tissue breakdown. Without it, roots will be weak. Molybdenum aids the plant in converting nitrate to ammonium ions, necessary for nitrogen fixation. Zinc assists in the normal growth of plant cells. Sulfur is an element in the formation of the amino acids which form the protein molecules. Copper aids nitrogen fixation from the atmosphere and is an electron carrier. Without copper, your plants will have stunted growth, weak growth, and few flowers. Manganese is used in the process of photosynthesis that uses sunlight to convert nutrients into growth cells.



Photo Credit: Winston J. Goretsky

Shirl's Hawaiian Lei

Best New Semiminiature Cultivar

(Commercial)

2004 AVSA National Show

Exhibited & Hybridized by: Shirley Sanders



Photo Credit: Winston J. Goretsky

Sinningia douglasii

Best Other Gesneriad

Best Sinningia

2004 AVSA National Show

*Exhibited by: **Bill Price***

Basic Essentials

by Susan Gimblet

We have all probably heard laments about how difficult it is to grow African violets: "It won't bloom," "My violets always die," "I watered too much/too little," and so forth.

In reality, African violets are very adaptable to most environments, which have made them one of the most popular house plants. Because the African violet is so adaptable, it can be grown in different ways by different growers, with equal success. I remember when I was first growing violets I would become frustrated when asking questions about growing them. Everyone had a different tip or suggestion, and frequently these tips would contradict each other or offer too many alternatives. For example, one grower watered from the top, another person said, "Oh no, always water from the bottom and don't get the center leaves wet."

Having said all that, there are several basic essentials that are needed to produce a beautiful African violet, but there are variables based on individual conditions. Keep in mind that African violets are grown literally from Maine to Texas, in all different climates. Although we are going to be talking about growing within our area, each of us may have little micro-climates within our homes.

Potting Mix

African violets have very fine roots and require a light, airy potting mix that will provide good drainage and permit the roots to grow. The potting mix should be slightly acidic (pH of 6.5-6.7). A good potting mix is very important. If violets are not grown in the correct potting mix, the other essentials for successful growing may not matter.

The terms 'potting mix', 'soilless potting mix' and 'soil' are interchangeable for the purpose of this discussion. The one factor that they all have in common is that these mixes do not contain 'dirt'. Because African violets grow better in a light, porous mixture, a mix containing dirt would become too heavy and compact, inhibiting the roots from growing. The three primary ingredients of soil-less mixes are peat moss, perlite, and vermiculite.

There are many different brands of soilless mix and many different recipes. It may be necessary to try more than one mix before settling on the one that works best in your environment. Potting mixes designed for African violets may be purchased at many garden centers. Look at these mixes closely; read the label. Check that the mix contains the three primary ingredients mentioned before and note whether it contains any 'dirt'. These mixes will work, although frequently they need to have additional peat moss or perlite

added to lighten them.

Soilless potting mix may also be found in many garden shops. In addition, there are listings of commercial suppliers in the back of the AVSA magazine. Finally, growers may make their own mix, following recipes published in the AVSA magazine, Pauline Bartholomew's *Growing To Show* (now available through the AVSA office), and other sources. Potting mixes do vary from brand to brand. Choose a good quality potting mix, perhaps one that is recommended by a violet friend or club.

Variable: I have found that when I bring a new plant home, whether from a club member or a commercial grower, I need to repot that plant into "my" soilless mix. "My" mix works well under my watering, temperature, and light conditions. I have learned from experience (note-trial and error) that if I leave the plant in the original mix, it will not grow that well.

Pots and Potting

African violets may be grown in either plastic or clay pots. Clay pots, however, will dry out faster and require more frequent watering. As most growers have many African violets, less frequent watering is a plus. There are many types of plastic pots available for violets. The simplest is a squat or shallow 4" pot (which is the most frequently used size). African violets have fine, shallow roots and grow best in smaller, shallow pots. Ideally, the roots will grow and fill the shallow pot, then permitting the plant's energy to focus on producing a nice rosette of leaves.

A general rule of thumb is that the diameter of a violet may be three times the diameter of the pot. Therefore, a violet in a 4" pot may grow to 12" in diameter without needing to be moved to a larger pot. So remember not to be too hasty in wanting to put the plant in a larger pot. Keep in mind those shallow roots.

This does not mean that the violet should not be repotted. African violets do need to be repotted at least twice a year. Semi miniatures and miniatures may need to be repotted more often. Violets like to grow in a pH range of 6.2-7.0. The potting mix selected is in the pH range of 6.5-6.7, but over time, the peat moss in the potting mix will break down and make the mix too acidic, thus affecting the violet's growth. By repotting on a scheduled basis with new potting mix, this problem is eliminated.

Purchased plants usually come in a 2" pot. Allow that plant to grow to at least twice the diameter of the pot before

transferring into a larger pot. Some growers will move from a 2" pot to a 3" pot and then a 4" pot. I prefer to repot from a 2" directly into a 4" pot.

To repot, place screening in the bottom of a clean 4" pot. Screening material may be a piece of coffee filter or any other material that is porous but will prevent the soilless mix from spilling out at the bottom. Place enough moist mix in the bottom of the 4" pot so that when a small 2" pot is placed on top of the mix, the rims are level with each other. Add additional moist mix between the two pots, pressing firmly. When the space is filled, remove the smaller pot and place the small

plant in the available hole. Add additional mix as needed to stabilize the plant. Water lightly with plain water.

Violets that are being repotted should be disbudded. The plants will be stressed from the repotting, and their energy will be needed for root growth in the larger pot.

Track repotting needs either on a calendar, with a computer, or simply by dating the plant label.

Enjoy your violets!

From *Ye Bay Stater*, publication of the bay State AVS



Culture of Miniature African Violets

by Margaret Taylor

Many members like to grow the small ones but some find them something of a challenge.

There are two types, miniature and semiminature. Minatures should grow a leaf-span of maximum six inches and semi-minatures eight inches. This is important to know when showing. The term micro miniature is seldom used today.

Often a plant will change its behavior in the hot weather, and miniatures have a habit of trying to outgrow their boundaries by producing larger than normal leaves, therefore wider than normal leaf spans. This hot weather stimulation may partly be contributed to by the origin of the cultivar. Some are hybridized using a standard variety as one of the parents. While this may not produce excessive growth in cool weather or climates, they may still have the propensity to grow larger than desired when conditions are too hot.

How then can we keep them small? Many growers recommend repotting miniatures every four to six months (unfortunate for the constant bloomers!) If this is done at the beginning of the hot season, however, a growth spurt may occur and leaves will become too big.

Some suggestions:

- Use small pots, 2 1/2 to 3 inches maximum.
- Use a lean mix, no additives like blood and bone etc.
- Use quarter to half strength balanced fertilizer. (Not a high nitrogen count).

- Strip off excess leaves often. Three rows are adequate. This practice may mean that you have to take a slice off the bottom of the root system, lowering in the pots and topping up with fresh mix.
- Leach out accumulated fertilizer salts regularly with plain tepid water.
- Do not use Texas style potting. This method is designed to grow large plants. Wicking is suitable as small amounts of soil in the little pots can dry out too quickly otherwise.
- Grow varieties that you know will tend to remain small.

If uncertain as to whether a variety is a miniature or semiminature, this information can usually be obtained by consulting the Master Variety List or First Class computer program. It is a good idea to note the correct size on the side of your pots.

There are some varieties that, although classified as semi-minatures, seem to always grow bigger than they are supposed to. 'Ness' Satin Rose' and 'Irish Flirt' are two that come to mind, both being so lovely that they may be forgiven their bad habit. Do not trust judges to be lenient with such varieties, however!

From *The African Violet*,
publication of the AV Association of Australia, Inc.

AFRICAN VIOLET MAGAZINE 39



Saintpaulia brevipilosa



Mather No. 10 – *Saintpaulia brevipilosa*

Dr. Jeff Smith
Indiana Academy
Ball State University
Muncie, IN 47306
email: jsmith4@bsu.edu

The plant known as Mather No. 10 is a clone of the species *Saintpaulia brevipilosa*. The name is also sometimes written as '*Saintpaulia brevipilosa* Mather No. 10.' This is a plant with a fairly well known collection history. The plant was originally collected and identified by Dr. T. Pocs from Morogoro, Tanzania. Sylva Mather obtained the plant from the Royal Botanic Gardens Edinburgh in 1985. The RBGE accession number for the plant is 19700909 meaning that the plant was entered into their collection in 1970. When this plant was processed from the Mather collection after Ms. Mather's, Mrs. S.A. Robertson gave the plant the number of R6665 in her collection series. Mrs. Robertson sent leaf cuttings to Iowa State University in 1993. I obtained the plant from ISU in 1996.

Saintpaulia brevipilosa Mather No. 10 is a rosette style plant. The leaves are nearly round and are at the end of long flexible petioles. The petioles often tend to twist and turn, making it difficult to get the foliage to lie straight for show. The leaves are somewhat thick and succulent and are coarsely toothed. The leaves may also show some red leaf backing. The leaves of the plant get larger with age and may reach 6-7 cm (2 1/2 inches) in diameter. A mature specimen of this species clone will grow to the size of a standard show plant.

The most unique feature of this species is the hairs on the foliage. *Saintpaulia brevipilosa* has only short erect (SE) hairs on the leaf and the hairs are very densely packed together. It is the only *Saintpaulia* species that has this hair type, making this species one of the easiest to identify. When examined, the leaves may appear to be entirely hairless because the hairs are short and translucent. However, touching the leaves will reveal a velvety texture due to the high number of short leaf hairs. The hairs are only on the upper leaf surface. They can be viewed with the naked eye by slightly bending the leaf blade and looking closely at the curved edges from the side view. All clones of *S. brevipilosa* have this leaf hair type. The main difference between Mather No. 10 and other clones is in the shape of the leaves (round rather than elongated) and in No. 10's larger plant size.

The leaves of *S. brevipilosa* Mather No. 10 have another interesting feature. As the plant matures, the leaves will bleach

in bright light, especially around the veins. The vein areas become increasing lighter green during the day so that by nightfall, the leaves appear to be variegated. This bleaching phenomenon is known in several other *Saintpaulia* species and appears to be an adaptation to bright light. The leaves return to a uniform green by the next morning.

The flowers of *S. brevipilosa* Mather No. 10 are medium blue and are found 2-7 per peduncle. The plant can be modest in its total flower count, but compares favorably with other species such as *S. difficilis* and *S. ionantha*. The pedicles of the flowers often twist and turn, presenting the flowers at unusual angles. Between the twisted pedicles and petioles, the entire plant often has an untidy appearance. Judges should allow for more distortion in the form and symmetry of this species, especially as compared to perfect symmetry of cultivated show plants.

S. brevipilosa grows in one of the most open and sunny habitats of the *Saintpaulia* species and is often reported growing in the open on rock outcrops. The *S. brevipilosa* Mather No. 10 clone will thrive in warm environment and welcomes bright light. It makes an excellent window plant and will tolerate light and heat that would damage other *Saintpaulia* species. I usually grow this species on the top shelf next to the lights.

I have not tried to hybridize with *S. brevipilosa* Mather No. 10 or any other of the *S. brevipilosa* clones. The velvety texture of the leaves is a desirable trait, but the twisted growth form would be difficult to shape for show if passed on to offspring. However, in areas where bright light and heat are a problem in growing African violets, *S. brevipilosa* offers a good starting place for developing tolerant cultivars.

In summary, *Saintpaulia brevipilosa* Mather No. 10 is a plant with a well-documented history. The velvety texture of the leaves is pleasing to the touch. The bleaching of the vein areas during the day gives the plant high visual appeal. This species will grow in warm bright light areas that are less favorable for other *Saintpaulia* species. If you can tolerate the plant's rather untidy appearance, this is an excellent plant for your species collection.

A Familiar Story

by Tom DeRousse

I've got a story that I know is familiar to all. There were many mistakes that as a beginning grower of African violets were correctible, but at times discouraging. One of those times I remember well.

Having joined the local African violet club here in Tucson, Arizona, in November 2001, I was assigned a mentor to help me get started. I don't know if my plants would have survived without Kathy Bell's guidance. Up to this time, I had killed every violet that I purchased from the local supermarket. If they lasted a year, I felt great that I could save them and enjoy their beauty, but it was almost like clockwork. Soon after, they would croak, and I would throw them in the trash. That's when I decided that I needed to join the local club to learn what I was doing wrong. I had, in the past couple of years, gone to the annual violet shows, picked up information, talked to a few people, bought a few plants, and tried once more to get a lasting and blooming plant.

When my mentor visited my home, I showed her what I thought was a beautiful African violet. My one and only violet left from the last show was blooming and had many beautiful leaves. Well, that's what I thought anyway, until Kathy looked at my lovely plant and giggled. I wondered why she was laughing. She picked up the plant, turned it around a few times. That's when she started stripping off the leaves. She had me get a large bag and a sharp knife, and continued rotating the plant and stripping more leaves, while discarding most of the leaves and flowers. Up until this time, I had not really known her, but I did know she had a pleasant and jolly personality. I was getting a little frustrated as she continued

plucking and smiling. Then came the moment that I shall never forget. She took my knife and chopped off the stem that later I found out was a neck, and there wasn't much left of that either. I thought, "Oh my gosh, what is she doing?"

Placing the unsightly ugly remains in a baggie was almost too much to bear. I knew nothing about necks, bad leaves, spent blossoms, or bad soil. I was beginning to feel very depressed, but through the dry tears blocking my vision and clouding my common sense, I didn't know whether to run or scream. Kathy looked at me and reassured me that I will eventually have a stronger and better plant. I thought the plant would never survive after all that mistreatment. Then to add insult to injury, she discarded the rest of the plant. I looked down into the bag to see a half filled container full of my beautiful flowers and leaves. Now all I had was a little baggie with a chopped down green thing inside that I knew could never survive. Then she smiled and said, "See ya' at the next meeting."

Would you believe that very plant survived to give me my first blue ribbon a year later? I entered six plants that year and received five blue ribbons. One turned out to be a beauty, and the loveliest plant I had, but I later found out that it had sported. That's another lesson I learned quickly. Sports can be beautiful in their own right, but need to be recognized and put in the proper class, which I found out too late. This year at the Tucson Convention, I received five more blue ribbons for plants that I felt were not ready for judging, but I had entered them anyway at the urging of my lovely wife. I'm overjoyed and thankful for the mentoring I received and continue to receive from such a professional and knowledgeable person.

Suggestions for Growing Large

by Lisa DiMambro

I asked several growers of large show plants for suggestions to successfully grow them and received some good advice.

Make sure that the variety you are trying to grow large will grow large, and do so in your conditions. A plant that will grow large for a grower in California may not grow as well in New England. Use a balanced 20-20-20 fertilizer, not a 12-36-14, as the large show plants need the nitrogen to keep the leaves a nice, healthy green. Skipping fertilizer in the summer is not a good idea for the large show plants as they are still growing and need the nutrition for the outer leaves to stay healthy.

A few of the growers I spoke with suggested that taking the plant off the wicking system in the warmer weather also seems to help with this type of problem. Another suggestion was to take the root ball apart and make sure that there are no soil mealy bugs or other root problems. I was also told not to

over-pot the plant or allow the plant to stay too long in an undersized pot.

Contrary to popular belief, I learned not to disbud completely for long periods of time, but to allow the plant to put up one bloom stalk occasionally.

And the final, most common suggestion made by all the growers concerned pH. Unless a soil sample was taken from the center of the root ball, it would not be accurate. With the mold potting method of potting up larger plants, we are not taking the old soil off, but just adding new. This does not level the pH throughout the pot. The older soil in the center of the root ball could be too high or too low and not allow the plant to absorb the nutrients it needs, even though the pH on the outer edge is fine.

From *Ye Bay Stater*, publication of the Bay State AVS

JULY • AUGUST 2004

AVSA Building Maintenance Fund

Mary Walbrick • 5235 Kingston Drive • Wichita Falls, Texas 76310-3029

email: MWalbrick@aol.com

Donations Received

Report 2, March 2004

Capital City AVS, Sacramento, CA	\$25.00
Metropolitan St Louis AV Council, Ballwin, MO	20.00
Oshkosh Violet Society, Omro, WI	10.00
The Pittsburgh Violet & Gesneriad Society, Oakdale, PA	3.00
Tristate AV Council, Lafayette, NJ	20.00
Frank Barthel, Syracuse, NY	5.00
Sherry Burtchett, Eau Claire, MI	10.00
Patricia C. Castiglione, Lake Dallas, TX	5.00
Cynthia Forbes De Correa, Panama	20.00
Doreen Hassan, San Jose, CA	5.00
Shirley Hershey, Amarillo, TX	25.00
<i>In appreciation of help from Mary Walbrick</i>	
Sadayki Ikeda, Hino City, Tokyo, Japan	12.30
Doris A. Jolley, Batesville, MS	5.00
Mr. & Mrs. Maurice Jones, Durant IA	100.00
Gordon C. Kibbe, Longmeadow, MA	10.00
Onalee H. McEwen, Houston, TX	5.00
Gail Magaldi, Niantic, CT	10.00
Georgia Moeller, Electra, TX	10.00
Corky Reichmann, Fairbanks, AK	5.00
Elizabeth Roth, Wallingford, PA	5.00
Eileen H. Stannard, Jerseyville, IL	25.00
Harold Swirsky, Glencoe, IL	25.00

Nancy Twaskas, Elizabeth, NJ	\$10.00
Judy Walton, Allen Park, KS	5.00
Faye Wieditz, Wichita KS	5.00
TOTAL	\$380.30

Report 3, April 2004

Smith's Country Cottage AV's, Spencerport, NY	\$25.00
Amethyst AV Club, Saint Charles, MO	10.00
AVC of Burlington County, NJ, Willingboro, NJ	50.00
<i>In lieu of Speaker's Fee, Karyn Cichocki</i>	
Central Jersey AVS, Milltown, NJ	20.00
<i>In lieu of Judging Expenses: Susan Armao, Fred Hill, Laurel Brown, & Heather Menzel</i>	
Edison Garden Club, Metuchen, NJ	35.00
<i>In lieu of Speaker's Fee, Fred Hill</i>	
Garden State AV Club, Allentown, NJ	15.00
<i>In lieu of Speaker's Fee, Karyn Cichocki</i>	
Happy Trails AVS, Apple Valley, CA	5.00
Moonlight AV Society, N Richland Hills, TX	20.00
<i>In lieu of Judging Expenses, Mary Walbrick</i>	
The Montgomery AVS, Montgomery, AL	25.00
Wisconsin Council of AV Clubs, Juda, WI	25.00
Carol Allegretti, Fort Myers, FL	25.00
Luanne Arico, Plainsboro, NJ	5.00

Willard Cardot, Lilburn, GA	\$10.00
Anna Chou, San Francisco, CA	2.00
Mae Dodson, Baltimore, MD	5.00
Carol Hastings, King of Prussia, PA	5.00
Carol Irvine, Aurora, IL	10.00
Richard L. Jarrett, Rochester, PA	5.00
Stephanie Jeffrey, Germantown, MD	10.00
Terry Klemesrud, Champlin, MN	10.00
Lynn Milgrom, Richmond, VA	10.00
Allen Peek and Sue Ramser, Wichita Falls, TX	16.00
<i>In lieu of Judging Expenses (Dallas Metro Clubs)</i>	
Hortense & Ray Pittman and Karol Johnson, Celina, TX	50.00
<i>In memory of Colin, husband of Joan Halford</i>	
Ralph O. Quaintance, Philadelphia, PA	10.00
Sue Ramser, Wichita Falls, TX	12.00
<i>In memory of Colin, husband of Joan Halford</i>	
Denise Sarrazin, Rawdon, PQ, Canada	12.50
Cecelia Seidel, Hayward, CA	5.00
Wong Wai Sing, Fanling, Hong Kong	2.50
Michelle Waxler, Moncks Corner, SC	1.00
Joan K. Wilson, Theresa, WI	10.00
TOTAL	\$446.00

Boyce Edens Research Fund

Marlene J. Buck • 17235 N. 106th Avenue • Sun City, AZ 85373-1958

Donations received from February 1, 2004 - March 31, 2004

The Montgomery AVS, Montgomery, AL	\$25.00
The Vancouver AV & Gesneriad Society, Richmond, BC	50.00
Loveland Sweetheart Violettes, Longmont, CO	15.00
<i>In memory of Eula Maxine Lacy mother of Susan Shaw</i>	
Maurice & Jackie Jones, Durant, IA	100.00
Elena Martinez, Miami, FL	10.00
Dolores Harrington, Fridley, MN	5.00
Ventura County, AVS, Ojai, CA	10.00
Kay C. Schroeder, Clarksburg, MD	10.00
Walther H. Ott, Bridgewater, NJ	25.00
Donalda Ferguson, Montgomery, AL	10.00
Arnold W. Mueller, Vista, CA	25.00
F. Eleanor Mattaliano, Tinton Falls, NJ	15.00
Fred Grafelmann, San Francisco, CA	10.00
Doris Schenck, Beloit, WI	10.00
D. K. Yeager, Helena, MT	5.00
G. E. Harmon, New York, NY	5.00
Anita E. Rudolph, Melville, NY	5.00
Beverly Volk, Allentown, PA	5.00
AVS of Minnesota, Minneapolis, MN	15.00
<i>In memory of Robert Frigstad</i>	
Janice A. Bruns, Hanover Park, IL	10.00
Marilyn Heinrich, East Northport, NY	10.00
Metropolitan St Louis AV Council	10.00
Patricia C. Castiglione, Lake Dallas, TX	5.00
Tristate AV Council, Lafayette, NJ	20.00
Nancy Twaskas, Elizabeth, NJ	10.00
Cynthia Forbes De Correa, Panama	20.00

Henrietta Leach, Bronx, NY	\$5.00
Doris A. Jolley, Batesville, MS	5.00
Ruth Lindquist, Wahoo, NE	1.00
Capital City AVS, Sacramento, CA	25.00
Mary Lester, Aurora, CO	25.00
Edward Hill, Esko, MN	5.00
Quad Cities AVS, Davenport, IA	25.00
Tustana AVS, Anaheim, CA	10.00
Bob Clark, Lawrence, MA	25.00
<i>In memory of Alice Courage, Past President of Bay State AVS, founding matron of the Quannapowitt AV Club, AVSA Master Judge and Teacher. Through her encouragement and efforts she was a mentor to many in New England. She will be missed.</i>	
Montrose AVS, Montrose, CA	10.00
<i>In memory of Patricia Stover</i>	
AVS of Northern Illinois, Norridge, IL	35.00
<i>In memory of Elaine Gordon, our charter member</i>	
Beaumont AVS, Beaumont, TX	25.00
<i>In memory of Leontine "Leo" Maschek, a long time devoted member.</i>	
Amethyst AV Club, St. Louis, MO	10.00
Quannapowitt AV Club, Lawrence, MA	50.00
<i>In memory of Alice Courage, our founding matron, Past President, Vice President, Secretary, AVSA Master Judge and Teacher.</i>	
Moonlight AVS, N. Richland Hills, TX	30.00
<i>In lieu of judges' gifts for our show</i>	

Central Jersey AVS, Milltown, NJ	\$10.00
<i>In lieu of judges' expenses for Lee Borey and Lee Gugliada</i>	
Anne Tinari, Huntingdon Valley, PA	25.00
<i>In memory of Colin Halford, So. Africa; dear friend and colleague</i>	
Long Island AVS, West Hempstead, NY	10.00
<i>A token given in appreciation to Dr. Jeff Smith for his helpfulness and information on Saintpaulia species which he generously shared with our speaker Dr. Lillian Banchik.</i>	
Judy Walton, Allen Park, MI	5.00
Oshkosh Violet Society, Omro, WI	30.00
Grace Ferry, Transfer, PA	5.00
Lynnhaven, AVS, Hampton, VA	15.00
<i>Donation for Bernice Charlton</i>	
Terry Klemesrud, Champlin, MN	10.00
Anna Chou, San Francisco, CA	2.00
Nancy Carr, Reynoldsburg, OH	10.00
Cecelia Seidel, Hayward, CA	5.00
Margaret Nasta, McKeesport, PA	10.00
Melissa Avenius, Arlington, VA	5.00
First Goldsboro AVS, Goldsboro, NC	25.00
Lynn Milgram, Richmond, VA	10.00
Michelle Waxler, Moncks Corner, SC	1.00
Carole Domnitz, Bellmore, NY	5.00
Carol Irvine, Aurora, IL	10.00
Maelee M. Byram, Huntingtown, MD	10.00

JUST COINCIDENCE?

by Diane Miller

I had misgivings about going to the national convention this year in Tucson. My good friends were not able to attend due to family illness. I had not originally planned on going, but they had twisted my arm saying, "You have to go – we'll have so much fun..." I just didn't want to go by myself. But my friends were still insistent that I go. I thought, "Well, this will force me to get out and meet new people." Boy, did I!

At the opening banquet, I sat at a table with complete strangers, many of whom would be future friends. We introduced ourselves and told where we all lived. A good part of my table was from Colorado.

After the banquet, the much-awaited showroom opened. I hurried there along with most of the convention goers armed with my new digital camera and pen and paper handy to determine which plants I just couldn't live without. Fellow violet lovers from Canada, Russia, Japan, Denmark, England, and all over the U.S. were there in full force. Although there were some beautiful plants, there was one little one that just "spoke to me" – a mini named 'Midget Gumdrop' with a blue ribbon sitting next to it.

That "speaker" plant had been entered by a grower from Colorado. Some who walked by stopped to admire it and comment on the unique mosaic foliage topped by an adorable double bright pink blossom.

It really caught my eye, as I had just recently won second best semi-mini in our local show in southern California with a plant named 'Raspberry Sizzle'. The beautiful mosaic foliage was similar. I thought to myself, "I really want to find out who carries that plant."

While in the showroom, I asked Paul Sorano if he carried it. He did not. Then I asked Shirley Sanders, Rob, etc., and nobody had it. Rob suggested I might contact Fay Wagman in upstate New York. (I later found out that she does carry the plant.) I, however, was on a mission. As I meandered on, I just couldn't get that plant out of my head. I spotted one of the ladies who had been at my table at dinner, although I couldn't remember her name at that moment – too many new names and faces that day. All I remembered was that she was from Colorado. So was the grower of this special little plant I had already fallen in love with. I walked over to her and rambled on about this really cute little plant that I loved. She asked me

the grower's name. Of course, I hadn't paid attention to that. She then asked me the name of the plant and I said, 'Midget Gumdrop'.

"Oh, that's my plant!" she told me. What would be my chances of walking up to one of some four hundred convention goers and finding the one lady who belonged with that plant?

I was so excited to discover that it was Nellie Levine who had brought that cute little plant from Colorado. She asked, "Do you really like that plant?"

"I adore it," I said. "Where did you get it?"

She was unsure, but her next comment left me in total shock. "You can have it if you want."

I'm sure I must have stood there like a total idiot. "The whole plant – I would be happy to buy a leaf or two."

She assured me that she had more at home and I had not misunderstood her. I could have the WHOLE adorable little plant. I was as excited as a five-year-old kid on Christmas morning! I told her about my 'Raspberry Sizzle' and I got her address. As if the story should end here... I was happy that I would be able to share leaves of a very similar plant with her. I knew she would like my little beauty back home in California.

I hurried back to my room to call my husband who patiently listened to my entire story as if he were really interested in violets. When I got off the phone, I thought I thought about the order of plants I picked up earlier in the day from Shirley and Sandy Sanders. I had ordered them earlier from Shirley and knew that she would have them ready for me to pick up at convention. Shirley was the vendor who had originally sent me 'Raspberry Sizzle'.

I had called her one day in a "violet frump" and told her I was tired of looking at the same old plants and needed something new. In our conversation, I asked her if she had anything she thought was really different that I might like. 'Raspberry Sizzle' was the just that plant.

As I peered into my newly acquired bag of plants from Shirley, tucked into one corner of the bag, along with some of her wonderful new hybrids, was a familiar sight – 'Raspberry Sizzle' – a plant, a special plant, a plant to share with Nellie. Was it just simple coincidence or...? Maybe I was just destined to go to convention.

Alma Hummer

Magic Knight AVS of San Antonio, Texas, lost a dear and beloved member when Alma Alethia Stechenfinger Hummer passed away on April 9, 2004. A blue ribbon winner and past president of Magic Knight as well as a Master Judge,

In Memory

Alma encouraged members to become judges and designers. She loved her African violets and her violet family and was the hybridizer of 'Shogun'. Those who knew and loved her will miss her.

Planting by Moon Signs

Moon in Aries

Barren and dry, fiery and masculine. Used for destroying noxious growths, weeds, pests, etc., and for cultivating.

Moon in Taurus

Productive and moist, earthy and feminine. Used for planting many crops, particularly potatoes and root crops, and when hardness is important. Also used for lettuce, cabbage, and similar leafy vegetables.

Moon in Gemini

Barren and dry, airy and masculine. Used for destroying noxious growths, weeds and pests, and for cultivation.

Moon in Cancer

Very fruitful and moist, watery and feminine. This is the most productive sign, used extensively for planting and irrigation.

Moon in Leo

Barren and dry, fiery and masculine. This is the most barren sign, used only for killing weeds and for cultivation.

Moon in Virgo

Barren and moist, earthy and feminine. Good for cultivation and destroying weeds and pests.

Moon in Libra

Semi-fruitful and moist, airy and masculine. Used for planting many crops and producing good pulp growth and roots. A very good sign for flowers and vines. Also used for seeding hay, corn fodder, etc.

Moon in Scorpio

Very fruitful and moist, watery and feminine. Nearly as productive as Cancer; used for the same purposes. Especially good for vine growth and sturdiness.

Moon in Sagittarius

Barren and dry, fiery and masculine. Used for planting onions, seeding hay, and for cultivation.

Moon in Capricorn

Productive and dry, earthy and feminine. Used for planting potatoes, tubers, etc.

Moon in Aquarius

Barren and dry, airy and masculine. Used for cultivation and destroying noxious growths, weeds, and pests.

Moon in Pisces

Very fruitful and moist, watery and feminine. Used along with Cancer and Scorpio, especially good for root growth.

July Moon Table

Date	Sign	Element	Nature	Phase
1 Thu. 2:01 pm	Capricorn	Earth	Semi-fruitful	2nd
2 Fri.	Capricorn	Earth	Semi-fruitful	Full 7:09 am
3 Sat. 1:22 pm	Aquarius	Air	Barren	3rd
4 Sun.	Aquarius	Air	Barren	3rd
5 Mon. 2:26 pm	Pisces	Water	Fruitful	3rd
6 Tue.	Pisces	Water	Fruitful	3rd
7 Wed. 7:03 pm	Aries	Fire	Barren	3rd
8 Thu.	Aries	Fire	Barren	3rd
9 Fri.	Aries	Fire	Barren	4th 3:34 am
10 Sat. 3:51 am	Taurus	Earth	Semi-fruitful	4th
11 Sun.	Taurus	Earth	Semi-fruitful	4th
12 Mon. 3:45 pm	Gemini	Air	Barren	4th
13 Tue.	Gemini	Air	Barren	4th
14 Wed.	Gemini	Air	Barren	4th
15 Thu. 4:40 am	Cancer	Water	Fruitful	4th
16 Fri.	Cancer	Water	Fruitful	4th
17 Sat. 4:56 pm	Leo	Fire	Barren	New 7:24 am
18 Sun.	Leo	Fire	Barren	1st
19 Mon.	Leo	Fire	Barren	1st
20 Tue. 3:44 am	Virgo	Earth	Barren	1st
21 Wed.	Virgo	Earth	Barren	1st
22 Thu. 12:39 pm	Libra	Air	Semi-fruitful	1st
23 Fri.	Libra	Air	Semi-fruitful	1st
24 Sat. 7:08 pm	Scorpio	Water	Fruitful	2nd 11:37 pm
25 Sun.	Scorpio	Water	Fruitful	2nd
26 Mon. 10:48 pm	Sagittarius	Fire	Barren	2nd
27 Tue.	Sagittarius	Fire	Barren	2nd
28 Wed. 11:57 pm	Capricorn	Earth	Semi-fruitful	2nd
29 Thu.	Capricorn	Earth	Semi-fruitful	2nd
30 Fri. 11:54 pm	Aquarius	Air	Barren	2nd
31 Sat.	Aquarius	Air	Barren	Full 2:05 pm

August Moon Table

Date	Sign	Element	Nature	Phase
1 Sun.	Aquarius	Air	Barren	3rd
2 Mon. 12:34 am	Pisces	Water	Fruitful	3rd
3 Tue.	Pisces	Water	Fruitful	3rd
4 Wed. 5:59 am	Aries	Fire	Barren	3rd
5 Thu.	Aries	Fire	Barren	3rd
6 Fri. 11:26 am	Taurus	Earth	Semi-fruitful	3rd
7 Sat.	Taurus	Earth	Semi-fruitful	4th 6:01 pm
8 Sun. 10:33 pm	Gemini	Air	Barren	4th
9 Mon.	Gemini	Air	Barren	4th
10 Tue.	Gemini	Air	Barren	4th
11 Wed. 11:20 am	Cancer	Water	Fruitful	4th
12 Thu.	Cancer	Water	Fruitful	4th
13 Fri. 11:30 pm	Leo	Fire	Barren	4th
14 Sat.	Leo	Fire	Barren	4th
15 Sun.	Leo	Fire	Barren	New 9:24 pm
16 Mon. 9:49 am	Virgo	Earth	Barren	1st
17 Tue.	Virgo	Earth	Barren	1st
18 Wed. 6:09 pm	Libra	Air	Semi-fruitful	1st
19 Thu.	Libra	Air	Semi-fruitful	1st
20 Fri.	Libra	Air	Semi-fruitful	1st
21 Sat. 12:37 am	Scorpio	Water	Fruitful	1st
22 Sun.	Scorpio	Water	Fruitful	1st
23 Mon. 5:08 am	Sagittarius	Fire	Barren	2nd 6:12 am
24 Tue.	Sagittarius	Fire	Barren	2nd
25 Wed. 7:46 am	Capricorn	Earth	Semi-fruitful	2nd
26 Thu.	Capricorn	Earth	Semi-fruitful	2nd
27 Fri. 9:08 am	Aquarius	Air	Barren	2nd
28 Sat.	Aquarius	Air	Barren	2nd
29 Sun. 10:33 am	Pisces	Water	Fruitful	Full 10:22 pm
30 Mon.	Pisces	Water	Fruitful	3rd
31 Tue. 1:46 pm	Aries	Fire	Barren	3rd

Reprinted with permission from *Llewellyn's 2004 Moon Sign Book*, published by Llewellyn Publications, ISBN 0-7387-0124-6



Barbara Elkin
Vintage Violets Committee
2855 Gayle Lane
Auburn, CA 95602-9674
email: bjabar@earthlink.net

AHH SPRING

I read somewhere that in spring a young man's fancy turns to love. Not being a man and not being young either, my fancy turns to the spring shows, the AVSA Convention, and the beautiful rebirth of the world. If you have been diligent with re-potting and grooming, your growing area will reward you with tons of blooms.

My master list of Vintage Violets has become unwieldy. Please readers, when you lose a plant that you have said you are growing, please let me know. Otherwise, I will eventually give your name to someone as a source. The postage and much e-mail soon get out of hand. Please read the AVSA Most Wanted carefully.

AVSA Most Wanted

Beach Comber
Betty Little
Bonnice
Date's Fantastic
Evagene
Evelyn Johnson
Fantasie Florale
Fantastic Fantasy
Golli Wog
Granger Gardens April Love
Granger Granger's Sugar Frost
Helen K.
Intensified Pride
Jennifer
Mysterium (Lyon)
Naomi's Afterglo
Nola
October Seas
Peek A Boo
Pink Owl
Pink Proliffity
Rob's Bedazzled
Rob's Blue Devil
Rob's Blue Moon
Rob's Blueberry Patches

Rob's Briar Patch
Rob's Bunny Wabbit
Rob's Candy Apple
Rob's Chimney Sweep
Rob's Clown Around
Rob's Cookie Crumble
Rob's Crazy Quilt
Rob's Double Whammy
Rob's Diamond Chips
Rob's Ember Glow
Rob's Fateful Twist
Rob's Fe Fi
Rob's Firebrand
Rob's Half Moon
Rob's Hot Foot
Rob's Ink Storm
Rob's Kid Wheezy
Rob's Little Josephine
Rob's Little Schmoozie
Rob's Megan Lynn
Rob's Midnight Madness
Rob's Mischievous
Rob's Miss Priss
Rob's Moon Critter
Rob's Mountain Ash

Rob's Oopsie Daisy
Rob's Orchid Eclipse
Rob's Pal Paul
Rob's Puddle Hopper
Rob's Quixotic Lad
Rob's Simply Susan
Rob's Sweet Pea
Rob's Sailors Dream
Rob's Taffy Pull
Rob's Thingamajig
Rob's Toodle Doo
Rob's Violet Sky
Rob's Whatsit
Rob's Whimsical
Rob's Whoopie
Rob's Willie Winkle
Sabrina
Snow Owl
Sugar Frost (Swift)
Skagit Wampum
Thelma Usinger
Vigor Lou
Zanzibar

2004 BEST AVM ARTICLE AWARDS

Barbara Pershing, *Publications Committee Chairman*

The recipients of the 2004 Best Article Awards were:

Dr. Jeff Smith, *Thank Goodness for Sports*, January/February
2003 AVM

Richard Follett, *African Violet 'Tough Love'*, March/April
2003 AVM

Nancy Robitaille, *Chimeras: A Pinwheel By Any Other
Name*, July/August 2003 AVM

Chris Leppard, *Help with African Violet Problems and
Pests*, September/October 2003 AVM

Mary Walbrick, *The Education Exhibit*,
November/December 2003 AVM

The AVSA Board of Directors and the Publications Committee selected the award-winning articles from the African Violet Magazine for the 2003 calendar year. Each year, the five best articles published in the African Violet Magazine the previous year are selected for this award. The winners are awarded Certificates of Appreciation for their contributions to the AVM and are presented with a one-year subscription to the AVM to be given to a non-AVSA member. The awards were presented at the 2004 AVSA Convention in Tucson, AZ. **Congratulations to each of the winners!**

Attention: All Members of AVSA

Starting with the Sept./Oct. 2004 issue, the following information will not be published in the *African Violet Magazine*:

- AVSA Judges and Teachers
- AVSA Affiliated Clubs
- AVSA Commercial Members

These lists will be available from the AVSA office in September.
Details on how to order will appear in the Sept./Oct. AVM.

EPISCIA PROPAGATION

by Nancy Robitaille

Propagation of episcias is a fairly easy thing to do. All you need is a cup of soil, a hairpin, and a pair of scissors. Of course, having a lush *Episcia* dripping with stolens (baby plants) is very handy, too.

Simply fill a small pot with dampened soil. Set it close to the mother plant. Bring the stolen to the soil and pin it down with a fat hair pin or paper clip or garbage bag tie – anything to anchor it fully onto the soil. Place a plastic cover on the baby.



The baby plant can live like this until roots are formed. Then the stem may be cut from the mother.

The stolen can also be cut from the mother immediately and treated as above. Make sure you have a plastic bag over the baby for humidity. Humidity helps make roots. Reproducing episcia is easy and a fun thing to do, and it gives you a chance to share plants.

SOIL MEALY BUG

by Nancy Robitaille

African violets have more than fifty species of insects and mites that love to feed upon them. The good news is that although there are about 29 species alone of soil mealy bugs in the US, only two to four species attack African violets.

Root mealy bug, *Rhizoecus americanus*, and Pritchard mealy bug, *Rhizoecus pritchardii*, are the most common.



SO WHAT DO THEY LOOK LIKE?

Soil mealy bugs are small, oval-elongated insects that live most of their lives among the roots of plants. They are from 1-4 mm or about 1/16 (one-sixteenth) of an inch in length and can easily be seen under a magnifying glass.

The insect has six legs on a slim body. It looks like a particle of perlite or rice. These insects are completely covered with a powdery wax which is secreted from glands in the mealy bug's body. This waxy material makes them appear like a snow-white ball and the wax protects them. They look somewhat like a white fluffy louse which feeds on the host's roots, destroying growth and plant vigor. SMB are visible on the surface of the root ball, sometimes on top of the soil, and they gather around the main stem of the plant.

The waxy powder may be found throughout the root ball, on pots, or even floating in water reservoirs. Infestations can easily be seen as white patches in the soil and at the pot's sides or bottom.

Soil mealy bugs have common names, too: "Blind mealy bug," "Root mealy bug," or just "Pritchard mealy bug."

SMB are closely related to scale but in place of the scales' hard shell, SMB have the protective waxy powdery coating. This coating protects it from most pesticides. SMB crawl about a great deal, and this is the method they have for infecting your entire collection.

The working parts of the soil mealy bug are the mouthparts which act like a hypodermic needle, piercing the root then sucking up the plant juices. The action of sucking out the plant juices naturally causes stress to the plant because of loss of moisture and nutrients. As they pierce the plant, the insects also inject chemicals into the plant which may act as anticoagulant which allows the juices to be removed more readily. These chemical toxins may also destroy plant cell walls and at the same time allow the pests to feed. Certain species of these pests also transmit viral diseases. They may also destroy chlorophyll or plant tissue.

EGGS OR LIVE BIRTHS?

Some mealy bugs lay eggs, and some give live birth to young. Dr. Charles Cole, in his book, "INSECT AND MITE PESTS OF AFRICAN VIOLETS," reports that in Pennsylvania in 1965, most Pritchard mealy bugs gave birth to living young. Very few eggs were laid. But in Texas during the past ten years or so, observations showed egg-laying females only. There was

no indication of females giving birth to living young.

In the case where the mealy bugs lay eggs, the eggs hatch in one or two days. Afterwards, the young insects disperse to find eating places on their own.

Root or Soil Mealy Bug thrives in dry and loose soils and are especially attracted to peat moss. This is certainly one main reason for pasteurizing peat moss before it is added to the soil less mix. One of the species of SMB eats above soil as well as below.

SMB have piercing-sucking mouthparts and feed on plant tissue and plant juice. They move very slowly. These insects tend to feed on roots of the African violet, especially the feeder roots in the upper layer of the soil which stifles the ability of the roots to absorb water and nutrients. A plant suffering from an attack may look limp yet be waterlogged.

Dr. Charles L. Cole, in his book, "INSECT AND MITE PESTS OF AFRICAN VIOLETS," says the life cycle of a mealy bug is completed in two to four months. All stages of life may be found on the plant at any given moment, thus, the reason for at least three consecutive sprayings of a chemical so that eggs hatching may also get treatment...

Root or Soil mealy bug should not be confused with Foliar Mealy Bugs found in the foliage of plants. These are from entirely different species, look different, and have different eating habits, both of which are destructive to our plants.

SYMPTOMS OF SOIL MEALY BUG

1. Leaves become pale, yellow or grayish
2. Wilted leaves are translucent brown with soft, jelly-like consistency
3. Plant does not flower (This is a symptom, but I have seen beautifully flowering show plants which were later diagnosed with SMB.)
4. Reduced plant growth and vigor
5. Root and basal stem rot
6. Infested plants may become small in the center.
7. Buds cease to form as the infestation continues.

If these symptoms are left untreated, the plant will likely die.

Often soil mealy bug is hard to cure because symptoms are not noticed until internal damage is too widespread.

HOW TO PREVENT AN INFECTION OF SOIL MEALY BUG

Cultural practices come to the forefront when discussing prevention. First of all, cleanliness of the plant room, shelves, and the plants themselves will help to prevent these insects.

Isolation of ALL plant material after careful inspection of the root ball is mandatory.

Pets and people bring in SMB from outdoors. The insects are spread from our hands, equipment, and especially from liquid sources.

Many growers change the soil of all newly purchased African violets before they reach their growing areas. Care must be taken with the soil taken from these plants since the insects can survive for a long time in the soil even after the plant has been removed.

Pots must be washed and disinfected before reuse. Some growers isolate plants from 60-90 days. Only after a thorough inspection of root ball and other parts of the plants do they allow newly purchased plants to enter the room with their collections.

Tools such as sucker pluckers, spoons, knives, and scissors, even the soil scoops should periodically be disinfected with alcohol.

Watering techniques spread these insects. When many plants are watered together in a community tray, or when capillary matting is used, SMB can spread rapidly.

GETTING RID OF THE INSECTS

Although SMB are not difficult to kill, controlling an infestation may be quite another thing.

Remove and discard infected soil. You can cut away the crown and reroot. Most of the soil, nests, and bugs can be removed with a jet of water. Clean and disinfect your hands.

Soil drench is most effective to rid yourself of these pests. The insects must be hit to be killed, and spraying the foliage of the plant is not hitting each and every insect.

These insects tend to seek out untreated areas of the root ball so a thorough drenching is necessary. They have been known to leave the root ball entirely and to seek safer places in the foliage of the plant when the plant is drenched from below.

Possibly a double drench, that is, drenching the root ball twice, would be more effective since when the root ball is too wet, the insecticide is diluted and when the root ball is too dry the bugs will migrate upwards until the insecticide is no longer toxic.

The drench should be applied from the top with the soil surface, and the crown of the plant should be thoroughly covered. Dr. Cole recommends that we place each plant in a

container or tray and pour the drench over the entire plant, concentrating on the soil. He also recommends allowing the plant to stand in the solution from two to four hours. Plants should not be watered with wicks or other ways since this will dilute the poison.

Clean all utensils, capillary mats, and destroy all old wicks. Re-insert new wicks since the insects may have found a refuge on the wicks when the plant is drenched.

"Soil mealybugs need live roots upon which to live. Mealybugs can exist for months in old used soil containing live roots." ... "If potting soil is to be reused, it must be sterilized by steam or other methods. Good sterile potting soil or peat that has no living roots in it is not a likely source of mealybug infestations."

CHEMICAL TREATMENTS

Spray or drench soil with Acephate or with Malathion (one teaspoon to four litres warm water) several applications at about 7 day intervals should be made to kill all phases of the insect. Most chemicals are harsh but sometimes necessary to African violets and other gesneriads.

Diatomaceous Earth is fully inert, non volatile, and has been proven effective as a treatment against soil mealy bug. DE is the skeletal remains of diatoms, which are a microscopic form of algae. When processed into DE, these skeletal remains form razor- sharp particles which cut into the bodies of insects, but no harm is done to African violets. Use one tablespoon of Diatomaceous Earth to a liter of dry soil.

(DE works with dry soil so I personally cannot trust it to kill all SMB since plants must be damp.)

NATURAL PREDATORS?

There are few if any natural predators for soil mealy bugs; however, some mention of tests with parasitic nematodes has been carried out with no satisfying results.

OTHER TREATMENTS

Follow directions on the container.

Chemical	TRADEMARKS
Diazinon.	Basudin, Diazon, Gardentox, Knox Out
Dimethoate. . . .	Cekuthoate, Chimigor, Cygon, Daphene, De-Fend, Demos, Devigon, Dicap, Dimate, Dimet, Dimethoat, Dimethopgen, Ferkethion, Fostion, Perfekthion, Rogodan, Rogodial, Rogor, Roxion, Sevigor, Trimetion
Imidacloprid . . .	Admire, Condifor, Gaucho, Marathon, Premier, Premise, Provado

Liquid Diazinon may be used as a soil drench. Note that soil mealy bugs may climb upward when pots are drenched. It is advisable to spray overhead also, or to drench from the top down.

Nancy Robitaille....?

The Face Behind Her Name!

I was born in Galveston, Texas, attended U of Texas at El Paso, and became a professional musician. I have been retired from Montreal Symphony Orchestra for many years. In fact, when the babies started coming, I stopped playing my music and started washing diapers. I had six children in five years, including a set of twins. I now have three grandchildren, two boys and a girl.

My mother brought me three little plants of 'Pixie Blue', which I promptly killed. She wanted to have a companion when she went to AVSA Conventions so I went with her to many conventions. As time passed, I became a judge, and we were able to judge together both in Canada and in the United States. My mother purchased my first light stand to encourage me to raise violets.

For a period, I stopped raising violets because of illness but have rekindled interest in them and since December 2002, have accumulated about 200 varieties. I purchased fifty leaves that December, then bought more leaves from a club member. Add that to the trades made from friends in different places, and the collection has again resumed its priority in my life. I'm a member of AVSA, AVS of Canada, the Bonsai Club, AVS of Greater Montreal, and Societe de Saintpaulia de Montreal. Awards I have been fortunate to win include: Jr. Queen of Show 'Pixie Blue' 1983 National Show, various Best in color classes, Design Classes.

I use the usual 1-1-1 basic recipe for soil: peat moss, perlite, vermiculite plus charcoal. For many years, I used Ernest Fisher's recipe (which included loam). This soil produced lovely plants with nice heads of bloom. After Mr. Fisher died, the soil became unavailable, and I began making my own, mixing the three ingredients. I do find that using this recipe for soil makes for more watering.

I have my future show plants on individual wicks. Other plants and leaves share community watering trays. This watering method could promote and/or spread certain diseases so I am not happy with it and will probably put the rest of the plants on wicks. Wicks also help for those vacations where someone must come in to water. My containers may go for two weeks or more without replenishing. Since the plant room is the largest bedroom in my house (I am a widow and can do whatever I wish including sleeping in the second largest bedroom) I make frequent visits. My potting



table is always in a mess. I don't know how people manage to have all areas of the plant room so spotless. Spilt soil resulted in the need to buy a hand held vacuum. I have had my lights on for 10 hours a day since the last show. These hours will increase as show time rolls around again. When my next three stands are installed, I am considering turning on the lights at night so the room won't get too warm. (Neighbors may think I'm growing things the police may be interested in, but at least the large picture window, full of streps and African violet leaves, is always at half mast and any interested party can see what I am growing.).

For around \$20, I purchased a little gadget which reads temperature and humidity. With this I've made some experiments including closing the door to the plant room, which put the humidity up to 58 percent. I did research to find out what was the 'best' reading for humidity and discovered that humidity should be up to 60 percent, so the gadget is worth the money. At least now I know what the temp is and the humidity. I have a fan in the room but intend to put in an overhead fan with light to have continuous air circulation. This year was the first time I'd ever experienced mildew. This called for more research and discovery of 'home-made remedies.' I tried sprinkling cinnamon on the leaves of plants with mildew. This works, but it also leaves a very unsightly appearance – one that is very difficult to get rid of! Lysol Spray was the answer, although the spray is so cold when it touches the plant that I wonder if that couldn't harm them in some way.

I prefer, first of all, a violet whose foliage behaves, will form its rosette, and sit and wait for blooms. If you have a good basic foliage that behaves, you can work on making the blooms come in on time for show. I love variegated plants, most of which have very good flat foliage. My favorite color? I suspect most anything. I don't have reds now, but with the new great shades that are being developed, I expect to have them.

I have many favorite hybridizers. Denis Croteau is on the list. Michel Tremblay produced some real winners. Greta Durand (from my club) hybridized a few very good plants. I used to like Barbara Sisk plants, but I don't think she is hybridizing much anymore. I like the Apache and Wrangler series but don't grow many of them. The hybridizer from

South Africa who produced the Silverglades series has some very different looking violets. I am looking for 'Silverglades Apples', a green bloom.

In the old days, I liked Granger very much. I haven't grown much from Lyon Greenhouses, but some of their recent blossoms are really outstanding. For the minis, there's Pat Tracy, who doesn't hybridize anymore; Hortense Pittman who has some real 'honeys'. And of course, Rob's (Ralph Robinson).

My daughter says I am very competitive. Maybe that is why I take my violets to three society shows in Montreal each year. Yet the prize of a blue ribbon is not the main purpose, since I often return the ribbons to recycle for another year. I think it's the opportunity to show off the plant work you have done all year that makes me competitive.

If I were as good a grower as some in my club, I would have 24 inch plants with thirty or more blooms all in the center with not a leaf out of place! Unfortunately, I am not consumed with the idea of getting that Best in Show ribbon so do not even try for that much perfection. I am much more laid-back (not to say lazy) about my plants.

My biggest mistake in growing violets is treating them all the same. You don't treat all your children the same, nor can you treat all your violets the same. Some plants need more or less light. Some balk the first day the reservoir is empty. Others could thrive for weeks with no water in the reservoir. I won't buy very wavy leaves or plants because I know they are doomed to failure with me. I have great difficulty in

growing apple-green foliage – like 'Irish Flirt' among many others. I grow it as far away from the light at the ends of the light stand as possible but still have not produced a good enough plant to go to show. I wonder what natural light would produce?

I am a voracious reader and have learned a great deal about violets through the years, which I believe has made me a good judge. A good judge should always try to find the good points about every plant first; then judge it with the rules set out by AVSA. It's a two-way street; a judge should grow many varieties and other gesneriads AND he/she learns by seeing and judging other's plants and designs

One might think everything has been done in the field of violets. With micro-miniatures, yellow (or almost) blooms, green edges. What's left? Well, if the hybridizers continue the way they have been going, many things are left to develop. There is a yellow violet which shows some orange color. I know someone will get into that one and bring out the orange. Wouldn't that be terrific! And what about scent? Several other gesneriads have scent. I don't know the biological reasons why scent can be taken from *Streptocarpus* and put into African violets. I assume certain gesneriads and violets are closer in genetics than humans and apes! Ten years from now, there will be amazing changes in our plants. I just can't wait!

This interview is courtesy of The VioletVoice Internet Group

Show Schedule Hints

by Barbara Goodsell • Glenview, IL

After your affiliate club chooses a date for its show, it's time to select a title and coordinate your design classes to match the show title.

Think of a catchy title, such as Violets get their Kicks on Route 66, Razzle Dazzle Violets, Vote for Violets if it's election time, Let's Party with Violets, etc. Show titles such as Symphony of Violets, Rainbow of Violets, Carousel of Violets are so common, they should be dead and buried forever.

Before preparing the show schedule, check the entry sheets from your previous show. At my club's last show, we had 28 classes with 0 to 1 entry. If you find this is the case with your last show, it's time to pare down the classes. Remember, the show schedule is written for all members of the club, not just one or two.

Look at your design classes from your previous show. Do just a few members do design? If so, just use two Interpretive Plant Arrangements and two Container Gardens. Don't go crazy with designs.

A small affiliate club show schedule should have about 35-38 Classes, including Club Project Plant and any memorial award class.

Now it's time to write the schedule. Check the Handbook

for African Violet Growers, Exhibitors, and Judges to see that nothing is left out. Also, have another member check to see that everything is in the schedule that should be there. There's nothing more embarrassing than to receive a call from a judge, stating that the schedule is missing something, or have all the judges show up and tell the show chairman that something has been omitted from the schedule.

Never, ever, send a show schedule to the judges before it has been approved by the AVSA Show Schedule Approver.

An affiliate show is the culmination of the trials and tribulations of growing plants to perfection. A beautifully staged show will encourage the public who grow African violets to learn more about the plants, and it encourages them to grow better violets.

Hopefully, the judges will like your show too, and your club will be the recipient of the AVSA Standard Show Award or the AVSA Standard Show Achievement Award.

I realize that everyone has their own way of doing things, but I think that saving the previous show entry sheets might help improve your show. They are a good indicator of what can be added or removed from the show schedule, which in the end will result in a well rounded show.

Worth Repeating...From the March, 1986 AVM Plant Nutrition

by David Buttram Independence, MO

One of the most important, yet misunderstood, aspects of plant culture is that of plant nutrition. The success or failure of our African violets depends largely on how we "feed" them.

Although the word "feed" is commonly used when referring to plants, we should properly say "fertilize." Food is correctly defined as any organic substance used by a living organism as a source of energy or as cell building materials.

We recognize that all animals, including man, require an adequate supply of food such as carbohydrates, fats and proteins. These are supplied externally and are the sources of energy and materials from which the body is built. A deficiency or inability to assimilate any of these food groups can cause illness, stunted growth, or even death.

On the other hand, the actual food source of photosynthetic plants is internal. When we "feed" our plants, we are only supplying them with the raw, inorganic materials from which they manufacture their own food. Therefore, to say that we "feed" our plants is not true as they feed themselves by the process of photosynthesis. Because of habit, feed and fertilize will probably continue to be used synonymously.

Early Greek scholars, including Aristotle, thought plants derived their substance from the earth. The idea was challenged by Nicolaus of Cusa in 1450 when an experiment showed, by his interpretation, that water alone was the source of plant substance.

John Woodward concluded in 1669 that an earthy substance, as well as water, contributed to the substance of plants. Woodward grew spearmint in rain water, Thames River water, conduit (sewer) water, and conduit water plus garden mold and found that growth was proportional to the quantity of dissolved matter present in the water.

Between 1772 and 1860, a series of important chemical advances made analysis easier and more accurate. Our basic knowledge of plant nutrition came in the early 1800s when a Swiss chemist, Theodore de Saussure, found that nitrogen in plants came from the ground and not the air. He found that good, sustained plant growth could not occur without mineral elements; that plants absorbed mineral elements in ratios different from those which occurred in the soil; and that plants absorbed substances regardless of whether they were useful, useless, or even poisonous. (Over 60 elements including gold and silver have been found in various plants.)

In the latter 1800s, science was finally able to unravel the mystery of plant substances. The scientific community concluded that plants are composed predominantly of water and organic compounds derived from carbon dioxide and water by a complex chemical process called photosynthesis

and to a lesser extent from mineral salts absorbed from the ground. Finally, the process of photosynthesis (the word was coined in 1898) was revealed and explained.

From de Saussure's research and later with refined instruments, nine elements were found to be required in large amounts for optimum plant health and were called major elements or macro nutrients. They are carbon, hydrogen, oxygen, phosphorus, potassium, nitrogen, sulfur, calcium, and magnesium.

Other essential elements found in smaller quantities are iron, molybdenum, boron, copper, manganese, zinc, and chlorine. These are called minor elements, trace elements, or micronutrients.

Carbon, hydrogen, and oxygen make up about 99% of the total weight of plants. These elements come from the air and water available to the plant. Nitrogen is the next most abundant element followed by potassium, phosphorus, calcium, sulfur, magnesium, and iron. Then in much smaller amounts are the trace elements.

Because nitrogen, phosphorus, and potassium are the elements needed in greatest quantity, it is these we must supply in the largest amounts.

Commercial plant fertilizers contain varying amounts of these elements and label accordingly. The proportions of nitrogen, phosphorus, and potassium are indicated by the three number code on the label. For example: 20-20-20 is a mixture of 20% nitrogen, 20% phosphorus, and 20% potassium. The remaining 40% is an inert filler. A mixture of 3-1-3 is currently on the market, and with a 93% filler, it is not very effective or economical.

Most commercial growers surveyed for this article reported that they use either 15-30-15, 20-20-20 or 12-36-15. Many of them alternate all three formulations.

The elements and their respective roles in plant metabolism are as follows:

1. **Nitrogen** - Increases vegetative growth and green color.
2. **Phosphorus** - Stimulates root formation and hastens development of young plants, develops hardiness, and promotes flowering and seed formation. (Super phosphate, 0-40-0, is available for the desired effects if necessary.)
3. **Potassium** (potash) - Promotes vigor and resistance to disease, stiffens stems, and also develops hardiness in plants. It is also important because it acts to balance nitrogen and other plant elements.
4. **Sulfur** - Acts to create an acid zone in the soil surrounding the roots, making possible the absorption of nutrients which are less soluble and is also an essential part of protein.

5. **Calcium** - This important element is usually not found in fertilizers, but is normally added to the soil in the form of dolomite lime. (Dolomite lime is about 45% magnesium carbonate and 55% calcium carbonate.)
6. **Magnesium** - This element is essential for the formation of chlorophyll and aids in the absorption and movement of phosphorus within the plant.

The trace elements serve several roles including acting as catalysts in the complex chemical transformations. They aid in the utilization of sugars and starches, increase or decrease growth, and generally "fine tune" a plant's metabolism.

When mineral deficiencies occur due to poor growing media, improper fertilizing, or wrong pH, there may be specific symptoms which may help determine the cause. The following symptoms are some of the more common and obvious signs of mineral deficiency, but may be symptomatic of other problems.

1. **Stunted growth** - A deficiency of almost any mineral may cause retarded growth, but it is usually caused by a lack of nitrogen, phosphorus, potassium, calcium, magnesium, or boron. Plants will just barely grow when deprived of nitrogen.
2. **Chlorosis** - A pale green or yellow color is called chlorosis and is primarily due to a lack of chlorophyll. Chlorosis is one of the most common signs of a mineral deficiency. Chlorosis may occur over the entire leaf or just along the veins. It usually affects older leaves, but newer leaves may be similarly affected. Patterns of chlorotic tissue will vary according to which mineral is lacking. Nitrogen and magnesium are important components of chlorophyll, and their shortage can cause yellowing. The lack of iron is another possible cause. Often, plants will turn yellow in warm weather, and later we will see why.
3. **Necrosis** - The death of parts of a plant. Iron deficiency may cause necrosis to occur in leaves. Leaf tips and edges sometimes die when phosphorus is lacking. A blackening of the roots and buds may be indicative of boron deficiency.
4. **Anthocyanin formation** - Anthocyanin is a color pigment of blue, purple, red, or even pink found in the vacuoles of plant cells. When normally not present as in a medium to light green leaf, then appears in irregular spots, a lack of nitrogen or phosphorus might be indicated.
5. **Abnormally elongated and/or spindly pedioles** - Usually a lack of sulfur is the cause. An over abundance of nitrogen is also a possibility.
6. **Split or curled leaf tips** - This is usually the result of a calcium deficiency.
7. **Dried or burned appearance on edges of leaves** - This is often the sign of phosphorus deficiency.

The difficulty in determining a mineral deficiency by symptoms alone is that other factors such as insects, improper pH, insufficient watering (too much or too little), or other inappropriate culture conditions may be at fault.

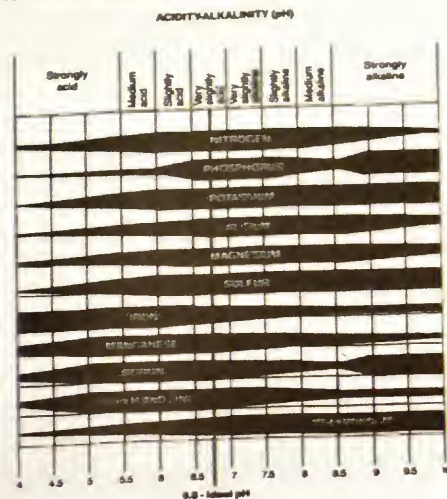
Because plants require large amounts of nitrogen, phosphorus, and potassium, they must be grown in rich soil or supplemented by fertilizing. African violets are "heavy feeders", and they will deplete normal potting soil relatively quickly unless it is a rich organic, humus mix. The new soilless growing mixes such as the Cornell Mix will require constant fertilizing for optimum growth and blooming.

The Cornell Mix was developed at Cornell University and consists of equal parts of peat moss, perlite, and vermiculite. To this mixture is added enough dolomite lime to adjust the pH to about 6.8. Sometimes called Peat-lite mix, this soilless growing medium is available commercially under trade names of Jiffy-Mix, Redi-Earth, Sure-Fire Gro Mix, and many others.

If a mineral deficiency is suspected in a collection of plants, sudden changes should be avoided. The first step in correcting a problem would be to have the existing growing medium checked for mineral content. This is very easy to have done as local county agents or university extension offices will make the tests at a very nominal cost. The testing lab should be informed that African violets are to be grown in the medium and the lab report will contain specific recommendations.

One of the most important tests that will be done by a lab is that of determining the pH. This factor in growing media determines the ability of plants to absorb vital nutrients from the surrounding medium. The optimum pH range for African violets is from 6.5 to 6.9 with 7 being neutral.

As growing medium becomes more acid, all minerals except iron become less available to plants. The more alkaline the medium (above 7 on a pH test) is, the less available are nitrogen, phosphorus, calcium, magnesium, iron, manganese, boron, and copper. Each element is available to the plant only within a determined pH range, and the accompanying chart will illustrate this. Thus, if a correct pH is not maintained, a plant could virtually "starve" because of an inability to absorb what is needed.



Looking at the chart, one can see that the ideal pH of growing media is at or near 6.8. If peat moss is used in the growing mix, frequent pH checks will be necessary as peat becomes more acid as it decomposes, and decomposition is increased by bacterial action which is stimulated by heat, moisture, and nitrogen. This is one reason that many plants turn yellow in the summer months. The addition of fertilizer during warming weather will increase the bacterial action, causing more acidity, decreasing the plant's ability to absorb needed nitrogen. This cycle is often increased when growers think the yellowing will be cured by more fertilizer. Raising the pH by repotting into fresh mix or adding lime water will be the only cure.

Organic versus Inorganic

Inorganic fertilizers are manufactured from chemical materials which have never lived. They are sometimes mined from the earth or chemically mixed and usually do not contain trace elements. They are clean and free from disagreeable odors. These fertilizers can be stored almost indefinitely, although some do "cake" due to moisture which does not affect their effectiveness.

A fairly recent development in inorganic fertilizers is slow-release (controlled release) granules. These granules are coated with plastic, resins, or wax of varying thicknesses that dissolve over a period of time, gradually releasing their nutrients into the soil. This innovation can be a great labor saving method as the granules are mixed into the growing medium where it remains for up to four months.

Granules have disadvantages, though, as the rate of release is controlled by external factors such as moisture, temperature, and microorganisms in the soil. For these reasons, slow-release fertilizers are not recommended when the soil is constantly moist as in wick watering or self-watering pots.

Recent studies at Auburn University indicate that slow-release fertilizers have many positive characteristics including the supplying of nutrients continuously with minimal loss due to leaching, and no toxic salt buildup. They allow the inexperienced grower a margin of safety from over-fertilizing.

Popular slow-release fertilizers include Sierra's Osmocote, 3M's Precise, Scott's Pro-Grow and Triomzed, and Sta-Green's Sulfurkote.

Slow-release fertilizers are ideal for a grower to add to the soil of young plants that will be sold to the public. The buyer will not have to worry about fertilizing for three or four months.

The group of organic fertilizers is valuable because they contain most of the necessary trace elements. These are the more commonly used ones: bone meal (1-11-0), dried cattle manure (1.5-5-1.0), cotton seed meal (6-1-1) which tends to also make the soil acid, dried blood (10-0-0), urea (46-0-0), fish emulsion (5-11), liquified sea weed (variable), fish meal (10-5-0), and organic compost (variable). Of these fertilizers, fish emulsion contains the widest variety of trace elements,

but all are excellent adjuncts to inorganic fertilizers.

Perhaps the most unlikely organic fertilizer on the market today is called Miorganite (6-3-0) and is the product of the sewage treatment plant in Milwaukee, Wisconsin. Its use is primarily for lawns, gardens, and golf courses.

Constant Fertilizing

For many years, African violets were fertilized periodically, but an increase in the popularity of soilless media has changed that practice. To provide plants with a constant supply of nutrients to ensure a smooth, sustained growth, most experienced growers prefer a constant fertilizing schedule.

The constant supply of nutrients is provided by mixing 1/4 of manufacturer's recommended amount with water and applying at every watering. Rotation of a variety of fertilizers is advisable to make certain that plants receive a wide selection of necessary mineral nutrients.

Foliar Fertilizing

House plants have traditionally been watered from the top or bottom, but Cornell University has demonstrated by experiments with radio isotopes that leaves absorb nutrients in a liquid form at a very high rate.

In their research, they found that when leaves were sprayed or misted with a nutrient solution the absorption began immediately and lasted until approximately 90% of the water-soluble nutrients were gone.

This method of feeding is called foliar feeding and occurs as liquids pass through the stomata (pores) on the surface of the leaf. The stomata are defined as ports of exchange between the external environment and the interior of the leaf.

The stomatal movements (opening and closing) are affected by three factors:

1. **Light** - Generally the stomata of a leaf open when exposed to light and remain open under continuous light unless limited by some other factor.
2. **Water** - A lack of water in the plant may cause slight wilting due to the closing of the stomata. This protective mechanism helps to conserve vital moisture. As moisture becomes available, the stomata will open causing the leaf to become firm or turgid.
3. **Temperature** - When all other factors are equal, there is evidence that an increase in temperature will cause an increase in stomatal opening.

Therefore, for optimum results in foliar fertilizing, plants should be warm, in light, and turgid or firm. African violets and other house plants can be effectively fertilized by following a few simple rules:

1. Be sure the plant fertilizer is recommended for foliar fertilizing (Ra-Pid-Gro, Plant Marvel, and fish emulsion are examples).

2. Mix the fertilizer carefully and exactly according to manufacturer's direction.
3. Use hot or warm water.
4. Apply with a mister or fine spray being very careful not to get too much moisture in the crown of plant.
5. Use moderately and begin on only a few plants.
6. Use no more than 1/3 of feeding if on a periodic schedule or twice a month if constant fertilizing.

Special Feeding Problems

Fertilizer salts sometimes form on top of soil or even in the crown of a plant if wick watered or in high humidity. The tiny crystals can be rinsed off by watering from the top occasionally, and prevented by allowing the soil to become slightly dry between waterings. This problem is more common with inorganic fertilizers, and alternating with an organic fertilizer is often beneficial.

When using a wick waterer or other reservoir-type pot, sometimes excessive algae forms. This is not harmful to the plant, but is unsightly. The algae growth can be controlled by painting the reservoir black or covering to prevent light getting to water. Because the algae are small plants, they thrive on the fertilizers, light, and warmth. If the problem is particularly bad, plain water may be used and occasional fertilizings made at the top of the pot.

Overfertilizing can be toxic, especially if using trace elements in the mixture, by damaging sensitive feeder roots and quickly altering the pH of the soil. Often the immediate results will be wilting and then later, reduced or retarded growth.

A plant that has been overfertilized should be removed from the pot and all the soil removed. It should then be repotted in fresh potting mix and after about ten days placed back on to the regular feeding schedule.

Recently, several products have entered the marketplace

promising growth, earlier flowering, and strong plants. Many of these are excellent, but are not fertilizers in the true sense of the word. Rather, they contain varying amounts of hormones, vitamins, auxins, and other chemical compounds. My personal experience has been very positive. Rooting time has been greatly shortened, and the young plants are hardy and fast growing. Many of these products are available from AVM advertisers. Examples are: Allegro, Alpha Vita, Hormex and Superthrive.

CAUTION - Because of the nature of these products, the user must strictly adhere to label instructions of the manufacturer.

Fertilizing is often misunderstood and considered a mystery. It is easily understood when we know the nutritional needs of our African violets. Moderation and adherence to manufacturer's directions, plus an ample supply of common sense will ensure us of countless hours of beauty and enjoyment with our plants.

Literature Cited

- Plant Physiology* by Robert M. Devlin, 2nd Ed. Van Nostrand Reinhold Co. New York. Copyrighted 1969
- Botany - A Functional Approach* by Walter H. Muller, 4th Ed. MacMillan, New York. Copyrighted 1979
- Plants - An Introduction to Modern Botany* by Victor A. Grevlach and J. Edison Adam. John Wiley & Sons, Inc. New York. Copyrighted 1976
- Plant Physiology* by R. G. S. Bidwell. MacMillan, New York. Copyrighted 1974
- Commercial Growers Chemical Fertilizer Brochure* Plant Marvel Laboratories, Chicago. Copyrighted 1971
- Slow-release Fertilizers Good For Houseplants* by Sanderson, Martin, Waterhouse and Shu. *Florists' Review*, January 21, 1982.

Causes and Solutions: Tight and Brittle Center Leaves

Check each in turn and try the remedy suggested. Do not confuse tight centers with leaves curling down around pot.

POSSIBLE REASON	REMEDY
1. The plant is too cold. The outer leaves usually curl down around pot also.	Place plant in a warmer position. If it becomes very cold at night, move plant away from cold windows and replace in position during the day.
2. The plant could be exposed to too much light. This is unlikely if you grow in natural light, but is a common problem when plants are first placed under fluorescent tubes.	Place a small piece of tissue over the center of the plant for one week. If, after that time, the leaves open up, move the plant to a position where it receives less light. Perhaps it is too close to fluorescent tubes or the light hours are too long.
3. The plant is receiving too much fertilizer - this usually causes all leaves to be hard and brittle.	Re-pot plant in fresh potting mix removing as much of old mix as you can without damaging roots. Use fertilizer at correct strength thereafter. If your conditions are cold, reduce fertilizer strength.
4. Possible infestation of cyclamen mite! (Other signs are center leaves hairy, growth stunted, cupped or distorted, flowers deformed, and slight graying at base of new leaves.)	Isolate the plant immediately. Place plant in a plastic bag and check with an expert. If Cyclamen mite, throw plant out as well as any others which show signs of infection. Spray all other plants with Kelthane solution at least three times at 4 to 7 day intervals.
5. Potting mix has developed a low pH over time.	Re-pot in fresh potting mix. It is best to re-pot twice a year to avoid this problem.

From the Newsletter of the Early Morn AV Group Australia

SELECTING A GOOD PLANT FROM A DESCRIPTION

by Sue Gardner

When we want to obtain some new African violets to grow, we often read the description in a list or on a plastic bag, and then wonder just what the plant will look like when we grow it. Here are a few tips to help us make a good selection.

We want to grow a plant that has lots of flowers. When we read a list, look for words such as floriferous, free blooming, masses of blooms, loaded with flowers, prolific display, etc. Also look for words that tell us that the plant has strong bloom stalks as we want a plant which holds its flowers upright over the foliage instead of drooping down onto the leaves.

Choose a flower color that appeals to you, but clear, bright colors make an attractive contrast with foliage. Don't select several plants that are all the same color or all with white edges. Variety is interesting, and you will be able to enter more than one class in the show.

Now let's look at the foliage. I'm sure we all want to grow

a plant with flat, symmetrical foliage. When reading descriptions, look for words such as "symmetrical", "show quality" or "flat, tailored" to describe the foliage. If the word "large" appears in the description, be aware that the plant will need a larger space than the usual standard. "Neat" is a term sometimes used. "Tidy" is another. I think these terms mean a symmetrical but smaller standard. Of course, there are times when a flower is just so attractive we want to grow it despite its foliage.

When we buy a mini or semi-mini, look for a description which is similar to those above. Sometimes it includes "overlapping foliage".

If we have only windowsills to grow on, it is a good idea not to select a large growing variety, as it will not fit. So tailor the selections to suit the conditions.

From the Newsletter of the Early Morn AV Group, Australia



Bi-color Violets and Sporting

by Joyce Stork

From the AVSA Web Site "Frequently Asked Questions"

Sporting is quite common among bi-color violets, especially those with white coloring. It has to do with how the cells divide. Almost always, it will be a pattern of two or four or sometimes eight flower colorations. As the plant grows, the cells split into two, with each half of the cell taking a genetic code with its half. In stable varieties, the code will be identical for both halves. In unstable varieties, however, there may be a slight variation in the two halves. One half of the code is "true", the other half is a "sport" or mutant. As the cells with the slightly mutated code continue to divide, a whole section of the plant will have leaves and flowers that are not the same as the other. Bi-colors with white are espe-

cially unstable because the flower is actually genetically all the darker color, but there is a genetic "brake" that keeps the purple color from developing fully in part of the flower, resulting in white. The brake can begin to slip, especially as the plant ages, and usually, the plant becomes gradually darker in color. This is often accompanied by a change in the foliage, so that darker patches of red will appear on the underside of the leaves of the dark blossom section of the plant. The best way to save the desired combination is to take a leaf cutting that is under a blossom that is true to type, and start a new plant. It is very interesting to see this phenomenon, but unfortunately, it is not at all desirable for avid hobbyists.

Addition to the AVSA 2004 Vacation Guide

The Velvet Leaf

Lynn and Bob Lombard

Colfax, CA

Just 5 minutes off I-80, between Sacramento and Lake Tahoe in Gold Rush country!

Please contact us for an appointment and easy directions.

530-637-9000

lynn_lombard@worldnet.att.net

Retail African violets, streps, episcias, and FREE spectacular Sierra and valley views!

LET THE POT TELL THE STORY

by Marge Huntley

You should not grow an African violet in a container without having the name clearly on the side of the pot. Labels in pots of African violets are not practical for several reasons.

1. Visitors, who cannot read the label, pull it out to see the name of the plant and sometimes haphazardly push it back right through a leaf blade or petiole.
2. Grandchildren gather up all the labels to count.
5. When the plant grows well, it covers all the potting medium and there is no space for a label.

So the plant name is put on the side of the pot. Do the job right and also add the date the plant went into the pot. Why bother with dates? If a plant is not growing as well as you would expect, check the date and see just when it was moved to that pot. It may not have been there as long as you thought and could have a burst of growth soon. Or it may really have been there for three months and not have grown. What is wrong?

Perhaps you potted up into too large a pot and the plant is

concentrating on root production to fill that large void. Maybe there was a problem with that particular lot of potting mix. When the mix is starting to dry out a little, gently remove the plant from the pot. If you can see healthy looking roots, just pop it back into the pot. If there has been little root development, remove most of the potting medium and pot into a smaller pot with fresh mix. Don't forget the name and date. (You could add 'potted down' as a reminder).

Dates on pots are also very helpful if you sell a plant. I operate the plant sales table at our local club meetings, and I use these written dates to assist with information to buyers about when they are likely to need to repot. I have always operated on the principle that a plant for sale should have been potted up for at least a month and must also be steady in the pot.

I think the reason that many people do not date their pots is because they use pull-off labels which they remove from the old pot and put on the new one. That's okay, but why not write the date on the pot below the label?

From the Newsletter of the Early Morn AV Group, Australia

Coming Events



August 28 - NEW HAMPSHIRE

Granite State AVS Show
The Radisson at the Center of New Hampshire
700 Elm St.
Manchester, NH
Hours: 10am - 4pm
Info: bclark@baystateflowers.biz

September 10 & 11 - FLORIDA

Tampa Bay Gesneriad Society presenting workshops
at the Gesneriad Gathering, U. of South Florida
Botanical Gardens
Pine and Alumni St.
4202 Fowler Ave.
Tampa, FL
Sept 10 - 10am - 5pm
Sept 11 - 10am - 4pm
Info: Mollie Howell (727) 797 - 2328
Email: molliehowell@ij.net



September 11 - CALIFORNIA

Ventura County AVS Plant and Supply Sale
Pacific View Mall
Corner of Mills and Main Streets
Ventura, CA
Hours: 10am - 9pm
Info: Georgetta Brickley (805) 647 - 7173
Email: av1brick@hotmail.com

September 11 - PENNSYLVANIA

Pittsburg Violet & Gesneriad Society Show/Sale
Galleria
1500 Washington Rd.
Mt. Lebanon
Pittsburgh, PA
Hours: 10am - 8pm
Info: Georgene Albrecht (724) 693 - 8666
Email: georgene@verizon.net

September 25 - CALIFORNIA

Fancy Bloomers AVS Plant Sale
Coddington Mall
Guerneville Rd. at Hwy. 101
Santa Rosa, CA
Hours: 10am - 4pm
Info: Alice Downing (707) 829 - 7760
Email: doghouse@sonic.net

September 26 - CANADA

Toronto AVS Open House/Plant Sale
Toronto Botanical Gardens
Civic Garden Center
777 Lawrence Ave. E
Toronto, Ontario, Canada
Hours: 1pm - 4pm
Info: Don (416) 964 - 9305
Louise (416) 445 - 7774



Propagation Techniques

by Carol Hess

This African violet hobby is definitely addictive! I have never known a violet grower satisfied with only a few plants. They are easily propagated and here are four methods to increase your collection. Plants may be reproduced by leaf cuttings, suckers removed from the "mother" plant, from bloom stalks, or from crown cuttings.

Leaf cuttings are the easiest and most common method. First, select a leaf that is firm and healthy from the middle row of a mature plant; older leaves from the bottom row tend to rot or never produce offspring. The leaf may then be rooted in water, but when transplanted, the fragile roots take longer to be established in the potting medium; hence a longer period before "babies" are produced. I keep leaves in water only until I am ready to put them into individual pots. Healthy leaves that have become limp can be revitalized by submerging them in tepid water for 1-2 hours before potting.

I use moist African violet potting mix mixed with perlite (half and half) in a 2" pot or a 3-ounce solo cup with drainage holes poked in the bottom. Don't forget to label your pot with the plant name! Cut the petiole on an angle about 1" from the leaf with a razor blade or sharp knife; the longer the cut, the more "babies" that are produced. I have had as many as twelve plantlets from one leaf. I then put the pots in trays with a clear cover. Clear shoe boxes or individual plastic bags also work well. If you have a plant stand, the best place is the top shelf, as this is the warmest, but the trays can be placed near a window but not in direct summer sun. I have even rooted leaves in plastic bags with a little potting mix, and when space is limited, I have clipped the bags to a string hung on the side of my plant stand. It is important to keep the soil moist but not soggy. If condensation occurs, I partially remove the cover. In about 6-8 weeks new plantlets appear. When the baby leaves are about the size of a dime, it is time to separate them into individual pots.

Suckers are one of the fastest methods to propagate plants.

Carefully remove the sucker from the "mother" plant with a sharp tool then plant in the same medium as leaves. If suckers are left on a single crown African violet, the shape of the plant will be distorted and prevent it from becoming show quality. Suckers are the most common method to propagate chimeras since this plant won't "come true" if propagated from a leaf.

Bloom-stem propagation is a challenge. It is used to reproduce chimeras or a fantasy-flowering plant. Ruth Bann, the hybridizer of the Rebel series of violets, told us at the Chicago convention that she uses this method almost exclusively as it is the method most likely to produce a plant with the same characteristics as the parent. The blossom stem (peduncle) is cut about 1 inch below the two tiny leaves that form below the blossom. Choose a fresh blossom with the largest sized leaves on the stem. The larger the leaves, the better the chance of success. Trim the blossom off the stem just below the flower and place in a small pot of moistened potting mix up to the small leaves. Clear-covered plant trays or sealed plastic bags ensure consistent moisture. Plantlets will appear on either side of the two small leaves in about two months. Some growers use rooting compound, but I find little difference in the results or the time to plantlets.

Crown cuttings are not for the faint of heart. The crown or the center of the plant is pinched out, leaving at least one row of leaves. The crown is planted and treated as you do a sucker. The mother plant will now produce multiple suckers. It is necessary to limit the number to encourage healthy suckers to grow. Once the suckers have leaves as large as a nickel, they may be removed and potted up. Scraping the scar tissue that has formed in the crown will encourage another group of suckers to grow.

Now... where will we put all those new plants? Happy propagating!

From *Ye Bay Stater*, publication of the Bay State AVS



**Visit the
AVSA'S Website:
www.avsa.org**

LOOKING FOR ORCHID INFORMATION? LOG ON!



Interact with other eager orchid enthusiasts by clicking on Orchid Forum at *OrchidWeb*®, developed especially as an information exchange platform for orchid growers throughout the world. The American Orchid Society's popular web site has extensive

plant-care tips, inspiring photographs, a calendar of orchid events, and other helpful orchid information.

Founded in 1921, the AOS is the world's number-one orchid-information source — just ask 30,000 members worldwide. On-site membership application is available along with convenient, secured shopping in The AOS BookShop and Orchid Emporium.

The American Orchid Society
Dept. AV/MAG, 16700 AOS Lane
Delray Beach, FL 33446-4351
Telephone (561) 404-2000 Fax (561) 404-2100
Email theAOS@aos.org Web site orchidweb.org



Home of "Buckeye" African Violets
(Hybridizing for large growing variegated standards with large, unusual blossoms)

Many new reds and blues on variegated foliage for 2004
Sturdy Buckeye Starters - my choice: 6 for \$28 plus \$8 postage
Check out the AVSA website for Buckeye pictures.

Color Catalog available late February
\$3.00 US, \$3.50 Canada.
Shipping begins in April depending on weather.

Stamps or Check payable to: **Pat Hancock**
7132 Shurz Road • Middletown, OH 45042 • (513) 425-0308



African Violet Leaves and Plants
Streptocarpus and Episcias

Email thegardenangel@earthlink.net for leaf list

Look for The Garden Angel plant auctions on Ebay (User: "thegardenangel")

The Garden Angel

PO Box 246

Pigeon Forge, TN 37868

Sandra Lister

Phone - 865-429-5099

Fax - 865-429-1483

All major Credit Cards and Paypal accepted

What your violets really need is \$500 to \$25,000.

Selling unique cookbooks using the Fundcraft Community Cookbook Programs is one of the best ways to raise money for your organization. It's easy to do and easy to sell. And with guaranteed sales, the money is in the can. Call 800-853-1364, ext. 267 or visit us online at www.fundcraft.com.

Fundcraft
Personalized Community Cookbooks
Personalized Cookbooks Since 1942



The Association for plant & flower people who grow in hobby greenhouses and windows!

Quarterly Magazine

Growing & Maintenance

Help & Advice

Hobby Greenhouse Association

8 Glen Terrace, Bedford, MA 01730-2048

Dues: USA \$19 (Canada and Mexico, \$21 US funds/MO)
(\$22 Overseas, US funds/MO)

Sample magazine \$3.50

Directory of Greenhouse Manufacturers \$2.50

CLASSIFIED ADS

NEPTUNE'S HARVEST ORGANIC FERTILIZERS

Commercially proven - outperforms chemicals

Free catalog (800) 259-GROW (4769)

Website: www.neptunesharvest.com

BAYOU VIOLETS - LEAVES ONLY

Request catalog \$1.00

Check payable to Genelle Armstrong

1313 Gardenia Drive

Metairie, LA 70005-1152

DONNIE'S VIOLETS - LEAVES ONLY

Catalog \$2.00

Check Payable to: Donnie Barnes

2563 Richert, Clovis, CA 93611-6034 • (559) 294-8650

OUT OF AFRICA

Blooming Streptocarpus

Gary S. Mikita

(219) 763-4861

garymikita@cs.com

Send \$1 for Catalog

2842 Brown St.

Portage, IN 46368

Bluebird Greenhouse

Apex, NC

At the Peak of Violetry



4821 Jessie Drive

Apex, North Carolina 27539

919-362-0530

libbie@bluebirdgreenhouse.com

<http://www.bluebirdgreenhouse.com>

Join
Today!



Cryptanthus

the Dazzling Earth Stars

are the perfect companion plants for your

African violet collection requiring the

same care. Exquisite colors, leaf shapes

and patterns of stripes, bars and zig zags

year 'round in every shade of the rainbow.

Send first class stamp for cultural information

or \$3.00 for a sample of our color quarterly journal.

THE CRYPTANTHUS SOCIETY

Carole Richtmyer - Secretary

18814 Cypress Mountain Drive

Spring, TX 77388

AFRICAN VIOLET BEAUTIES

Will ship Spring 2005 with more of your favorites plus some real
OLDIES! Leaves and a good selection of starter plants - 350+ varieties.
Walk-ins welcome. U.S. priority shipping only.

Sonja's Violets
(870) 426-1791

15980 W. Warden Road
Omaha, AR 72662

Prairie Violets

P. O. Box 313 • Maroa, Illinois 61756

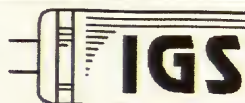
Older and newer varieties, novelties, etc. leaves labeled - 'Our Choice'

12 for \$15.50 / 25 for \$26.50 s/h \$6.00

35 for \$35.50 / 50 for \$45.50 s/h \$8.00

Shipping May 15th - Nov. 15 weather permitting
Mail order leaves only

Specials Price List \$1.00



P. O. Box 527-AV • Dexter, MI 48130
Phone (800) 823-5740 • Fax: (866) 823-4978
9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. EASTERN
www.indoorgardensupplies.com

FULL LINE OF INDOOR GARDENING PRODUCTS

- ◆ PLANT TRAYS ◆ LIGHTED STANDS ◆
- ◆ METERS, TIMERS ◆ PLANTLITES ◆ ACCESSORIES ◆

40 WATT WS (Wide Spectrum) LAMPS:

6 = \$40.03 12 = \$66.96 24 = \$125.44

G48A-PL2 \$486.90
w/4 Two Lamp Fixtures
and WS Lamps
4 Shelves 8 Trays
74" H x 27" L x 23" D

ALL PRICES PREPAID,
MICHIGAN RESIDENTS ADD 6% SALES TAX
VISA, MASTERCARD, DISCOVER, CHECKS & COD'S ACCEPTED

FREE CATALOG

Tan GH-T \$118.40
2 Shelves W/3 Trays
per shelf
44" H x 36" W x 25" D



Beverly's Violets & Gifts

6311 DeBarr Rd. #Q
Anchorage, AK 99504

Oyama Self Watering Planters

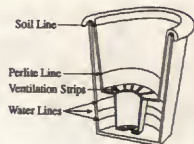
If interested in becoming a dealer

Call: (907) 338-5551 or Fax: (907) 338-5758

To order planters call:

John Cook • Falmouth, MA
(508) 548-2798

Jim Davis • Bellingham, WA
(360) 398-2631



VioletsFun Photo Journal

Each issue contains 4 full-color pages,
interesting articles and cultural information
4 issues, \$10 (\$15 outside of US).

VioletsFun, P. O. Box 9, Naples, NY 14512
Phone: 585-374-8592 VioletsFun@aol.com

1-800-770-AVSA

Save the Wild Saintpaulia

Will the Wild African Violet Survive?

Wild Saintpaulia species are found only in a very limited habitat in a handful of mountain and coastal rainforests known by scientists as the Eastern Arc. Much of the Arc rainforests have been destroyed by man.

The African Rainforest Conservancy
is preserving and regenerating the Saintpaulia habitat.
You can play a critical role.

Friend (Rafiki) of Saintpaulia - \$10

Patron (Mhifadi) of Saintpaulia - \$25

Guardian (Mlezi) of Saintpaulia - \$50 or more

Donations are Tax Deductible made to:

African Rainforest Conservancy • 480 Broadway., Suite 403
New York, NY 10013

SUMMER TIME!

TOO HOT TO SHIP IN JULY AND AUGUST!!
A GOOD TIME TO GET YOUR FALL ORDERS IN.

We are planning to have a good supply of plants of this years favorites.

HERE ARE SOME OF THE LITTLE ONES

Lyon's Cute Aza Bug, Pittman's Cool Teen & Striped Love, ACA's Eloise, ACA's Green Dragon, Shirly's Sheer Luck,
Shirly's Blue Eyes, Shirly's Senior Moment

THESE ARE A FEW OF OUR STANDARDS

Stork's Coral Clusters, Louisiana Lagniappe, Shoshone, Rapid Transit, ACA's Dashing Red, ACA's Golden Moment, Bann's Rebel's
Flaming Star, Rebel's Cherry Flambe, Sorano's Black Magic, Neon Fantasy and many more plants by your favorite hybridizers.

TRAILERS

Teeny Bopper, Blueberries N Cream, Sweet Sam, Cirelda, Always Pink, Girl foliage on trailers? Yes, either My Sue, Ramblin' Lassie or
Shiawasee Tr. The above varieties and more are described in our 2004 catalog available for \$2.00.

LEAVES OF SHIRLEY'S CHOICE

24 CURRENT AND PREVIOUS RELEASES \$24.00 OR 50 \$44.00.
Priority shipping on leaves \$6.00. Texans add 7 7/8% tax.

PLANTS AVAILABLE FOR \$4.50 EACH PLUS \$8.00 SHIPPING AND HANDLING
ON UP TO 6 PLANTS. OVER THAT CHECK OUR CATALOG.

You will be notified by telephone before we ship your order
please include your phone number with your order!

Make check payable to Shirley Sanders

1034 Rayburn Dr., San Antonio, TX 78221 • Telephone number (210) 923-1093 • FAX number (210) 921-2596



NOW AVAILABLE THROUGH AVSA!

AV WORLD'S BEST SELLER



A step-by- step guide

Illustrated - 112 pages
8 1/2 x 11 paperback

USA/Canada

14.50

Postage Paid

Texas add

8.25% sales tax

Overscas postage:

\$7.50 air mail

African Violet Society of America, Inc.

2375 North St.

Beaumont, TX 77702

1 (800) 770-2872



BELISLE'S

Heirloom Violets
Quality Gesneriads
Unusual Companion Plants
Mail Order Catalog \$2.00

P.O. Box 111

Radisson, WI 54867



African violets know no borders, so why not
become a member of the

AFRICAN VIOLET SOCIETY OF CANADA

and receive **Chatter**, its quarterly publication?

A magazine dedicated to the growing and showing of African
violets and Gesneriads. USA/International membership \$14.00.

Please make your cheque or bank draft payable to AVSC
and forward to:

Mrs. Irene Henry

349 Hyman Drive

Dollard des Ormeau, P.Q. H9B 1L5

Canada



African - violet and Gesneriad NEWS

\$16 (CDN) per year in Canada \$15 (US) to the United States

John Beaulieu Productions e-mail: gesnews@bconnex.net

Box 118, Midhurst, ON L0L 1X0 CANADA

Lyndon Lyon Greenhouses, Inc.

PO Box 249 • Dept AV • Dolgeville, NY 13329

“Where The Violets Are!”

Quality hybrids since 1954

Just back from AVSA National Convention in Tucson, AZ - winning many awards:

~ Including ~

Best New Cultivar: *Warm Sunshine*

3rd Best New Cultivar: *Princess K' Rei*

Celebrating our 50th Anniversary this year!

To receive our 2004 color Catalog, please send: \$3.00 U.S. / \$5.00 International (US Funds)

Our greenhouses are open year round. No appointments necessary!

Call for hours! Phone (315) 429 8291

Located in the foothills of the beautiful Adirondack mountains! Just 10 minutes off Interstate 90.

Visit our website at: www.lyndononlyon.com



VIOLET GALLERY

African violets - standards, miniatures, trailers, leaves, and supplies. Our catalog is available online with some violet pictures, or send \$1.00 for a printed version (*with descriptions only*).

www.violetgallery.com - email mpetry@cvn.net

1590 Cranberry Road, York Springs, PA 17372 • (717) 528-8268



African Violets and Gesneriads

Send \$1.50 for catalog to **Pat's Pets**

4189 Jarvis Rd. • Hillsboro, MO 63050

Phone (636) 789-3604

E-mail: patspets@jcn1.com

Internet catalog: www.jcn1.com/patspets

PHYSAN 20™ Controls African Violet Pathogens.

- Controls algae on mats, wicks, reservoirs, trays, pots, benches, and work surfaces.
- Controls damping off on seedlings and plants.
- Controls crown rot, powdery mildew, botrytis.
- Controls disease spread by disinfecting tools.

Let those pesky visitors know they're not wanted. Take control with **PHYSAN 20**.



MARIL PRODUCTS, INC.
320 West 6th Street
Tustin, CA. 92780
P. 714.544.7711
800.546.7711
F. 714.544.4830
www.physan.com

You know African Violets - now meet the rest of the family...

American Gloxinia and Gesneriad Society

Quarterly journal, extensive seed fund, judging schools, round robins, annual convention, plus a copy of "How to Know & Grow Gesneriads"

Individual membership - \$25.00

Outside the U.S. \$30.00

Please send check, money order, or credit card information to:

AGGS Membership Secretary
Bob Clark
118 Byron Ave.
Lawrence, MA 01841-4444
membership@aggs.org

Visit us online: <http://www.aggs.org>



Violet Perfection by Gini

1420 Oxford Ave • Claremont, CA • 91711

A CALIFORNIA GOLDMINE OF QUALITY VIOLETS

New & Older Varieties • Standards • Minis • Trailers • Leaves

All plants \$4.00 • one free gift plant Leaves \$1.50

Minimum order: 8 plants or 12 leaves

Phone, e-mail, or check my catalog or website for S&H prices

Special Offers

12 sturdy starters my choice **\$42** +\$16.50 S&H

12 leaves my choice **\$22** S&H included

(Does not include free gift plant)

★ Shipping only within the Continental US ★

Send \$3.50 for color catalog or visit
my website at: www.violetperfection.com

Phone: (909) 624-8331 or Fax: (909) 624-6565

e-mail: violetperfection@earthlink.net

Mastercard or Visa available with \$25.00 min. order



Travis Niolets.

P. O. BOX 42 OCHLOCKNEE, GA. 31773

NEW 2004 SHIPPING SEASON! 3 FREE VIOLETS!!!

Order now before August 31, 2004 and get 3 FREE violets, **our choice**. Min. order for this offer is 12 plants (Not Including Specials). Send for our **NEW 2004 CATALOG \$2.00** (now available).

New and older varieties of African violets from the leading hybridizers, featuring

TRAVIS' VIOLETS, LYONS, ROBS, REBELS, BUCKEYES, SORAS and others.

Try our **SUPER SPECIAL** - 12 Husky Starters, all different - \$49 Postpaid, all plants **our choice**. (Does not include free plant offer).

ORDERS SHIPPED IN ORDER RECEIVED

We accept: **VISA, MASTERCARD & DISCOVER** (Min. \$30 order)

COMMERCIAL MEMBER: AVSA AND DAVS

Greenhouse Open 7 days a week (please call first)

Phone: 1-229-574-5167

1-229-574-5236

Fax: 1-229-574-5605

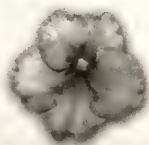
E-mail: tviolets@aol.com

Annie's Violet Supplies

P.O. Box 1888
Yulee, FL 32041

Call Toll Free
1(866) 684-6538 (866-6violet)
or (904) 548-1149

Place your order on our website:
www.anniesvioletsupplies.com
or send \$2.00 for a catalog



Great Gift Item!
Intelligent Plant
Light \$35.00



Grow violets or
orchids, in your
home or office.
Fluorescent
lamp turns on
and off
automatically.

Partial list of our products

Round Plastic Pots 2" to 6"
Reservoirs 16 oz. & 32 oz.
Dandy Pot & Mini Dandy
Soiless Potting Mixes
Grooming Tools
R-D 20 for Algae Control
SUPERthrive

Dyna Gro Products

Dyna-Gro Grow 7-9-5
Dyna-Gro Bloom 3-12-6
Dyna-Gro Pro-TeKt
Dyna-Gro K-L-N Concentrate
Dyna-Gro 100% Neem Oil

"Growing to Show" (112 pages)

Smith's Country Cottage African Violets

Good things are blooming...

Standards • Mini's • Trailers • Chimeras
Commercial Growers since 1986
Over 300 varieties

VISA/MC Accepted • Mail Order Catalog (\$1)

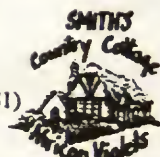
Greenhouse open Mon.-Sat. • 10am-5pm

Visitors welcome, call first (585) 352-6445

109 Ogden-Parma T.L. Rd. • Spencerport, NY 14559

E-mail your orders to

gsmith352@netzero.net



JoS Violets

African Violets, epicias and more

www.geocities.com.josviolet or

send stamped envelope

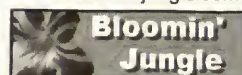
2205 College Dr

Victoria, TX 77901

(361) 575-1344

Charlie & Linda Rowe
12716 Coleman Rd.
Red Creek, NY 13143

www.bloominjungle.com



315-626-3745
satisfaction guaranteed
info@bloominjungle.com

Customer Quotes

"Linda's violets are awesome!"

"Can you believe, leaves for \$1.00!"

"Packing is excellent, not a single broken leaf!"

Year Round Shipping!

Many hard to find varieties!

eBay seller ID: [saddlesore52](#)

Over 1000 Gesneriad varieties!



VIOLET SHOWCASE SPECIAL OFFER



Violet Showcase Plant Assortment

- Six different standard sized starter plants will be chosen for you from our available stock when your order arrives. We will choose an assortment of leaf and blossom types and bloom color in each shipment. All plants will be husky, well-rooted, named, labeled varieties in 2 1/4" pots. Our choice of varieties - **only \$25.00** which includes packing and Priority Mail shipping, and a free catalog/list, or \$40.00 per dozen plants. We ship plants May thru October.



Violet Showcase Basic Supplies Kit

- All of the supplies necessary to try wick watering (a great way to grow violets!) PLUS step-by-step instructions. Includes an 8 oz. pouch of Peters 12-36-14 African Violet Plant Food, a 3 quart bag of Potting Medium (especially mixed for wicking), 6 clear 16 oz. wicking reservoirs with lids (no hole in lids), six 2 5/8" tub pots, six 4" tub pots, 6 yds. of wicking cord, and our best-selling **VIOLETS THE SHOWCASE WAY** booklet. **\$17.00** which includes UPS shipping and handling, and a free catalog/list. We ship supplies year round.



Send for your free complete catalog/descriptive plant list of supplies and violets.



Telephone (303) 761-1770 • FAX (303) 762-1808

Visit our web page at www.violetshowcase.com

The Violet Showcase

3147 South Broadway - Dept AV - Englewood, Colorado 80113

Open Monday - Saturday 10 to 5 (Mountain Time) closed Sunday & Tuesday

Established 1969





OUR 33RD YEAR

CAPE COD VIOLETRY

John & Barbara Cook

Dept. AV 28 Minot St. (508) 548-2798

Mail order only • Falmouth, Massachusetts 02540

SUPPLIES FOR VIOLET GROWERS BY VIOLET GROWERS

WE CARRY ALL THE SPECIES AND THE ORIGINAL 10

Catalog \$2.00, Foreign catalog \$3.00

Phone (508) 548-2798 - Fax (508) 540-5427 - email violets@cape.com

PLASTIC FLOWER POTS

SIZE	COLOR	TYPE	10 ct	25 ct	50 ct	100 ct	500 ct
2-1/8"	Wt. or TC	Rd. Tub	1.00	1.80	3.50	6.50	30.00
2-1/4"	Gr. or Wt.	Rd. or Sq.	1.05	2.15	3.90	7.25	33.00
2-3/8"	Wt. or TC	Rd. Tub	1.10	2.25	4.25	8.00	38.00
2-1/2"	Gr. or Wt.	Rd. or Sq.	1.15	2.40	4.55	8.60	40.50
3"	Gr. or Wt.	Rd. Tub, Std. Sq.	1.30	2.95	5.25	9.80	44.50
3-1/2"	Gr. or Wt.	Rd. Tub	1.45	3.60	6.60	12.00	55.00
4"	Gr. or Wt.	Rd. Tub	1.75	3.85	7.25	13.50	59.40
4-1/2"	Gr. or Wt.	Rd. Tub	2.40	5.60	8.00	15.50	73.00
5"	Gr. or Wt.	Rd. Tub	2.90	6.75	12.50	23.00	105.00
6"	Gr. or Wt.	Rd. Tub	3.40	8.20	15.40	28.80	134.00
6-1/2"	Gr. or Wt.	Rd. Tub	4.00	9.50	18.00	34.00	160.00

MICRO MINI POTS

1-1/2"	Terracotta	1.20	2.75	4.80	9.00	39.50
Snap-On Saucer	Terracotta	1.20	2.75	4.80	9.00	39.50

PLASTIC PAN POTS

5"	Gr. or Wt.	2-1/2" Deep	2.90	6.75	12.50	23.00	105.00
6"	Gr. or Wt.	3-3/4" Deep	4.10	9.75	18.50	35.00	165.00
7"	Gr. or Wt.	4" Deep	6.00	14.50	28.00	54.00	
8"	Gr. or Wt.	4" Deep	7.60	18.50	36.00	70.00	

PLASTIC WICK WATER RESERVOIRS (Recessed snap-on lids, wicks not included)

Size	Height	Diameter	Holds Pot Up To	10	25	50	100	500
8 oz	1-3/4"	4-1/2"	5"	3.50	8.00	15.00	29.00	140.00
16 oz	3"	4-1/2"	5"	4.00	9.50	17.00	32.00	150.00
32 oz	3-1/4"	6"	7"	6.00	14.00	27.00	53.00	250.00

Lids or containers only - 1/2 listed price

PLASTIC LABELS

3" White, Red, Orange, Yellow, Green Blue, Lavender, Pink	100	500	1000
4" White, Green, Blue, Lavender, Pink, Red, Yellow	1.10	5.25	8.00
5" White, Lavender	1.40	6.25	11.00
4 1/2" White only	1.65	7.50	14.50
	2.00	9.00	17.00

PERMA-NEST TRAYS - Light Green - No Holes

4" x 8" x 2-1/2"	1	6	12
8" x 8" x 2-1/2"	1.00	5.50	10.75
8" x 12" x 2-1/2"	1.60	9.00	16.80
11" x 22" x 2-3/4" Lt. Green or Beige	1.75	9.90	18.60
	5.50	31.50	60.00

CLEAR DOME

Fits 11" x 22" trays \$2.25 ea. Dome and Tray combo \$7.25 each

Elisa's African Violet Rings

6" (Mini)	Gr. only	Fits up to 3" pot	1.00	5.25	9.75	20.00	34.50
9"	Gr. only	Fits 3" to 5" pot	1.15	6.00	11.00	23.00	39.00
13"	Gr. only	Fits 5" to 8" pot	1.40	7.15	13.25	24.00	42.00

DYNA-GRO FERTILIZERS

Formula	Type	Size / Price		
		1/2 pt.	1 pt.	1 qt.
7-9-5	Plant Food	\$4.95	\$7.95	\$12.00
3-12-6	Bloom	4.95	7.95	12.00
9-3-6	Foliage Pro	4.95		11.00
0-0-3	Pro-Tekt	4.95		10.00
Concentrate	K-L-N	10.00		
Neem Oil		7.50		24.50
Dolomite Limestone				2 lbs./\$1.75
Charcoal		20 oz.	40 oz.	
No. 4 Coarse or	No. 6 Medium	1.85		3.50
		4 qts.	8 qts.	16 qts.
Vermiculite	No. 2 Coarse	1.75	3.00	5.75
Perlite	Coarse	1.75	3.00	5.75
Canadian Peat Moss		\$1.75	3.00	\$5.50
TROY Capillary watering mat - a full 4 feet wide				
\$4.00 per running yard - whole yard lengths				

FREDETTE'S ALLEGRO Plant Tonic

Excellent for starting leaves and small plants.

Use 3 tsp. per gal. water. 4 oz. bottle

Each \$3.25, 3 for \$9.50, 6 for \$18.00, 12 for \$34.00

SWIFT'S "MOIST-RITE" PLANTER

White - Green - Black

\$4.00 each - 6/19.20 - 12/36.40 - 24/67.00

SHIPPING INSTRUCTIONS:

48 STATES

East of the Mississippi - \$5.25; West of Mississippi - \$5.75

West of the Rockies - \$6.25; Rural Areas please add \$1.50

All Others - Actual Cost

Massachusetts Residents include 5% Sales Tax

Please include STREET or ROAD, Zip Code and Phone Number

PRICES SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT NOTICE.



3 1753 00318 1036

RINGS

MANUFACTURER
WHOLESALE
DISTRIBUTOR

6" - 9" - 13"

CLUBS - BUSINESSES
SEND FOR PRICE LIST

J F INDUSTRIES

AFRICAN VIOLET
LEAF SUPPORTS
5 SIZES

6" fits up to 3" pot

9" & 12" fit up to 5" pot

15" & 18" fit up to 8" pot

J F INDUSTRIES

28 Minot St.

Falmouth St.

Falmouth, MA 02540

(508) 548-2798

PHYSAN 20

8 oz. - \$4.95

16 oz. - \$7.25

32 oz. - \$13.50

1 gal. - \$35.00

SUPERTHRIVE

1/2 oz. - \$3.00

1 oz. - \$4.25

2 oz. - \$6.00

4 oz. - \$9.25

DANDY POTS

2-1/4" - 4"

OYAMA PLANTERS

1-1/2" - 2-1/2" - 3-1/2"

4"-5"-6"

FLORA CART

Light Stands

KEIKIGROW PLUS

15 ml - \$21.50



The Violet Barn, home of

Rob's Violets

African Violets, Gesneriads, the Rare & Unusual

7-time winner, AVSA Best New Cultivar Award

9-time winner, AVSA Best Commercial Display

Home to "Rob's" miniature and "Ma's" standard African violet hybrids!

NEW AFRICAN VIOLETS FOR 2004

All grow and shape easily, are heavy bloomers, and are excellent either for show or as a "houseplant"

TWO NEW STANDARD CHIMERAS

MA'S TURNCOAT. Large sdbl. blush-white to cream-pink stars w/distinctive blue purple pinwheel stripes. Excellent, dark, variegated foliage. Chimera. **\$15.00**

MA'S WICKED WITCH. Sdbl. cream pansies w/dark blue stripes, splashed white. Dark, variegated foliage. Very heavy and constant bloomer. Chimera. **\$15.00**

LOOKING FOR THESE?

OPERA'S PAULO. Lightly ruffled, sdbl. orchid pansies w/white puffs and thin white edge. Great for show. (Burdick) **\$5.00**

PRETTY MISS KELLY. Large, fringed sdbl. medium blue stars w/dark blue and reverse pink fantasy, then edged white. Variegated foliage. Very unusual, pretty. (Croteau) **\$5.00**

OUR NEW MINIATURE VARIETIES

ROB'S BAHAMA MAMA. Sdbl. hot-pink with frosted rose overlay. Dark, quilted, Champion variegation. Extremely profuse semimini in the "hottest" of colors—it glows! **\$4.00**

ROB'S LUCKY CHARM. Deep, orchid-mauve sdbl. pansies over dark green and chartreuse to gold variegation. Very unusual, euonymous-like variegation impervious to heat or age. Easy grower, a must for the serious collector. Chimera. **\$20.00**

ROB'S VANILLA TRAIL. Loads and loads of fully dbl. cream to blush-white blooms over very dark, red-backed, semimini trailing foliage! Heavy and constant bloomer that trails well and grows very easily. A wonderful, very pretty, plant. **\$4.00**

....plus hundreds of other varieties of ours and other leading hybridizers. See our web-site for pictures!

NEW STREPTOCARPUS FOR 2004

Our own hybrids. All are spectacular, and easy to grow and bloom, even in windows. Care identical to violets. All **\$4.00** each.

BRISTOL'S BLUE BONNET. Lovely periwinkle-blue blooms with darker center and distinct butter-yellow eye. Extremely heavy bloomer, always covered with dozens of blooms. Excellent.

BRISTOL'S DAISY JANE. Striking, large white blooms w/thick, very dark crimson brush marks emanating from center. Sure to be an all-time favorite, always in heavy bloom. Wow!!

BRISTOL'S GUM DROP. Adorable burgundy pansies held in nice bouquet over compact foliage. Great bloomer. Very cute.

BRISTOL'S NOSE PRINT. Upper petals white, tipped purple, lower petals dark purple-red, then edged white. Very easy grower, always in bloom, and certainly distinctive.

BRISTOL'S PAJAMA PARTY. Deep rose-pink blooms heavily streaked with white fantasy. The best fantasy we've seen of this color. Very unusual and a good bloomer.

BRISTOL'S PINK LEMONADE. Lightly fringed rose-pink blooms with dark maroon stripes on bright yellow lower throat. Good and constant bloomer, very easy grower.

BRISTOL'S RIBBON CANDY. Double bright pink round blooms with dark red veining on white throat. Very profuse and constant bloomer, it's aptly named.

....dozens more pictured on our web-site!

100'S OF OTHER MINI, TRAILING, AND STANDARD VIOLETS, PLUS GESNERIADS

Including Episcias, Columnea, Nematanthus, Chirita, Begonias, Hoya, and truly miniature houseplants!

PRICES: \$4.50 each for standards, \$4.00 each for all other plants. For shipping beginning April 15, add \$12 per order for shipping. Winter shipping by express mail only (call for details)—available to most areas.

Special Offer: 10 different violets or streps (our choice), \$30 plus shipping. We also ship wholesale.

WE SHIP ANYWHERE (INTERNATIONALLY), ANYTIME—SAFE DELIVERY GUARANTEED!

SEND \$2 FOR FULL-COLOR CATALOG, OR VISIT US ONLINE AT WWW.ROBSVIOLET.COM

Dr. Ralph (Rob) & Olive Ma Robinson
PO Box 9, Naples, NY 14512

Phone: 585-374-8592 Fax: 585-374-6947
Shop & Greenhouse open daily, 12-5 p.m.